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# DESIGNS

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# In This Issue:

## Clothing

### Artisan Apron

*Celebrate a bygone era with Joanne Banko's apron. Free designs included!*

page 44

### Scrap Happy

*From trash to treasure! Transform bits of denim scraps into textured patchwork.*

page 64

### Breathing New Life into Old Linens

*Debbie Henry packs a fresh approach and expert care advice into antique linens.*

page 40

### Hints of Havana

*Big, bold stitches look like handwork on a summer classic, the peasant blouse. No one will believe you stitched it on a home machine!*

page 20

### Venerable Vintage

*Katherine Artines reminds us that vintage does not mean old. Oh no, it means, "best, choice, classic." See Katherine's best work yet!*

page 26

### Handmade in the USA

*Dress up rustic burlap with red, white and blue patriotic fabric – perfect for a summer picnic.*

page 36

### Live Your Dream

*Like the look of old school varsity letters? Take a look at today's interpretation.*

page 54

## Home Decor

### A Bevy of Beauties

*Turn blank toweling fabric into beautiful towels with the easy addition of embroidered nostalgic ladies and pretty ruffles.*

page 12

## Accessories

### Nautical Baby Boy Gift Basket

*Use built-in software designs to make personalized baby gifts.*

page 50

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# Departments


Buyer's Guide 77

Designs' Details 77

What's New in Designs 8


# Columns


#embroiderytrends
*Watch your friends do a double take when they see these unique designs.* 72

Between Friends 6

A Closer Look
*Ernesto sets up a hot dog stand by a cactus and an ant mound. What could go wrong?* 80

Multi-Needle Know How
*The popular – but dreaded – cap embroidery! Marie Zinno walks you through the process.* 60

Great Scott!
*Scott Goodman gives an overview of embroidery software options. (Mac users, there's something for you too!)* 74

Subtle Tees
*Look to your travels for your t-shirt inspiration!* 16

# DESIGNS
## IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY
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# It's All in the Details

*Two Decorative Threads from Madeira*

## Madeira Frosted Matt Thread

The world's first truly matte thread, the new Madeira Frosted Matt offers more than 100,000 stitches of stand-out color on each 550-yard spool. Vibrant and smooth, Frosted Matt is ideal for crisp decorative stitching and fine lettering, where the intensity of each color can truly pop.

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Decora No. 12 Thread brings extraordinary texture and vibrant color to your designs. This 12 weight, 300 meter spool is made of 100% viscose, and creates shining decorative stitching on serging, quilting and embroidery projects with a high sheen for stunning embellishments.

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# Between Friends

What's the old cliché? What goes around, comes around? Well it's true, vintage embroidery is hot right now and it's the future of machine embroidery for the home user. Exactly what is vintage embroidery? It's the look of yesterday's hand stitches coupled with today's digital products and high performance threads.

Shop in any retail store and you'll see big, bold stitches in matte threads on knits, denims and linen. The long stitch length and thick threads result in low-stitch count designs making garments so comfortable. There's no need for heavy cut-away or fusibles; just lightweight water solubles or tear-away wash-aways give all the support that's needed. Vintage embroidery is fabric-friendly and embroiderer-friendly!

Bold stitches look great on natural fibers such as burlap, cotton, denim, linens and huck toweling. Nancy Zieman gives two options for trimming her timeless towels on page 12.

Katherine Artines' mix of embroidered roses, tulle and beads with faded denim is a study in texture. I couldn't resist running my hand across the raised stitches and soft fabrics when her garment arrived. It's subtle yet eye-catching – a hard combination to achieve.

In the same article, Katherine also gives you the skinny for digitizing an in-the-hoop purse. You'll learn how to create the flap for a perfectly-shaped curve, the tell-tale sign of a professionally produced bag.

*"The look of yesterday's hand stitches coupled with today's digital products and high performance threads."*

Diane Kron transforms a drab burlap table runner into a salute to the red, white and blue. Pair her jumbo letters with a patriotic novelty fabric and you've got the setting for a spectacular picnic. Learn how on page 36. Cherished antique linens don't have to stay in the closet. Pull them out and dress them up with embroidery. Debbie Henry shares several inspiring pieces on page 40 and she included tips on removing common aging stains.

I've been busy delving into the whole 'vintage embroidery' look myself. Inspired by retail, I've made it my mission to make this old school look achievable by home embroiderers. I have to admit I haven't had this much embroidery fun for many years. My Hints of Havana peasant blouse on page 20 and Live Your Dream denim jacket on page 54 are my latest creations. Vintage Embroidery software and products are hitting stores now. Go to www.InspiredByDime.com to find a dealer near you.

Happy Stitching

Eileen Roche

***Eileen Roche,***
***Embroidery Expert &***
***Editor of Designs in Machine Embroidery***

*www.dzgns.com/blog/*

***Visit Eileen's Blog for more fun from Behind the Scenes***

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a story in every stitch

# What's New In Designs

By Rebekah Brown

Zen Animals #12669
Embroidery Online
www.embroideryonline.com

Women's In the Hoop Tri-Fold Wallet
Embroidery Garden LLC
www.embroiderygarden.com

Morning Grunge 3
Graceful Embroidery
www.gracefulembroidery.com

Trio of Bunnies
Sulky of America, Inc.
www.sulkyembclub.com

Floral Wreath
Appliqué For Kids
www.appliquéforkids.com

Perfumes Towel Hangers
Smartneedle
www.smartneedle.com

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## an Event for Embroidery Enthusiasts

**OESD's Super SPREE is a fun, hands-on event for embroidery enthusiasts of all skill levels.**

In this two day event, you will learn to make six different projects, plus you'll learn valuable embroidery tips and techniques to make your own projects more successful and less stressful! Gain embroidery inspiration as you view a wide variety of embroidery projects on display and learn how to choose the right products for any type of project.

- **Two days of fun with friends**
- **Instruction from an embroidery expert**
- **Six fun projects**
- **Goody Bag**
- **Prizes and Giveaways**

Go to **oesd.com/events** to find an event near you!

# What's New In Designs

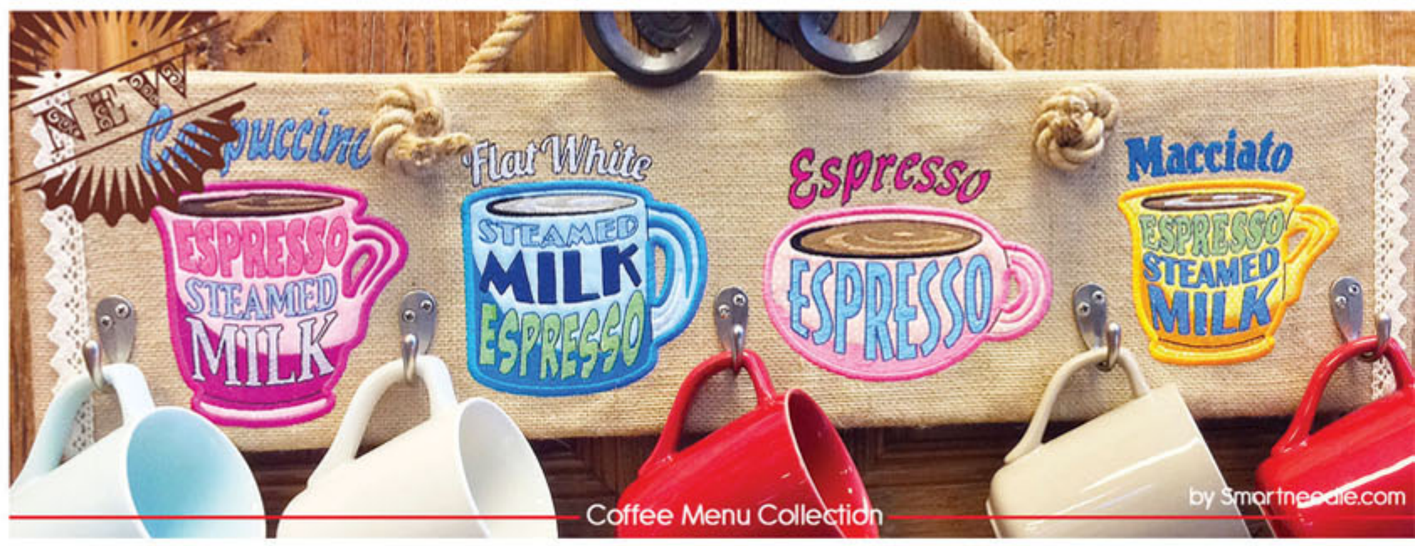
Welcome Wreath (HS1611027D)
EmbroideryDesigns.com
www.embroiderydesigns.com

Stuffed Barnyard
Stitch Soup
www.stitchsoup.com

Victorian Monogram Set 13
Embroidery Arts
www.embroideryarts.com

Fox Plush Kit (UTZ2220)
Urban Threads
www.urbanthreads.com

Rose in 3D (Lace) (X13237)
Embroidery Library
www.emblibrary.com



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# A Bevy of Beauties

By Nancy Zieman

*It is finally spring! I waited all winter for my gardens to come back to life. These delightful towels helped pass the time and brought the beauty of a spring garden indoors. Turn "blank" toweling fabric into "beautiful" towels with the easy addition of embroidered nostalgic ladies and pretty ruffles.*

**Download the free ruffle trim instructions at www.nancysnotions.com/dimeV104**

## Embroidery Products

Amazing Designs® Stroll in the Garden Embroidery Designs CD with FREE Edit Express™ software for resizing, color editing, and printing templates (ADC-244)

## Supplies

Two yd. prewashed huck toweling for two towels
Optional: ¼ yd. print fabric for ruffled trim

## Helpful Notions

Spray Starch or Best Press™ Starch Alternative
Wash Away Extra Self-Adhesive Non-Woven Stabilizer
Klassé machine embroidery needles, size 75/11
Erasable marking pen
Curved embroidery scissors
Optional: Translucent Foundation Paper (for printed templates)

## Threads

Madeira rayon threads: I used colors: 1025, 1020, 1028, 1074, 1107, 1142, 1169, 1170, 1181, 1250, 1241, and 1341.
Prewound bobbins
Or, several bobbins wound with Rayon threads
Matching all-purpose thread

NOTE:

*Embroidery products, supplies, notions, and threads are available at Nancy's Notions®. www.nancysnotions.com*

## Prepare Towels for Embroidery

1. Divide toweling into two equal lengths, approximately 36".

2. Starch toweling fabric.

3. Choose your favorite embroidery design(s) for the towels from the Stroll in the Garden Embroidery Designs CD.

4. Print templates of your chosen design(s). I used designs 112 and 113.

## *Nancy's Note*

*I like using Translucent Foundation Paper to print templates. This paper is easy to see through, making it easy for aligning or nesting designs. Be sure to trim away excess paper from around the design for precise arranging.*

5. Center your chosen embroidery design 1" above the lower cut edge; position and mark crosshairs.

## Embroider Design(s)

1. Use the editing feature in your embroidery machine or embroidery editing software on your computer to recolor each image as you like. I chose to "recolor" the embroidery to more closely match my ruffle fabric.

The program allows you to see the new color selection without taking a stitch.

2. Save designs to a flash drive, memory card, or directly to your embroidery machine.

3. Set up machine for embroidery.

Insert a new machine embroidery needle.

Thread the bobbin. Use bobbin thread (or a prewound bobbin) to match the towels.

Open the designs to stitch on your embroidery machine.

Choose thread colors for the designs, or use the colors indicated. Arrange thread in order of use.

4. Hoop Wash Away Extra Self-Adhesive Non-Woven stabilizer, paper side up in the embroidery hoop. Score the release paper with a pin and gently peel away the paper, exposing the sticky adhesive.

Place the towel over the stabilizer, centering crosshairs with center markings on the hoop.

Gently finger press towel into position over stabilizer.

5. Embroider.

Attach hoop to the machine.

Remove template and embroider design as marked.

Remove hoop from the machine.

Remove embroidery from the hoop; trim away excess stabilizer, then wash away the remaining stabilizer according to the manufacturer's instructions.
Place embroidery face down on a terry towel. Cover with a press cloth; press.
Repeat for additional towels.

## Complete Towels

1. For super easy hem finish, press under cut ends twice and edgestitch.

2. Or, add ruffle trim, as I did, following the free downloadable instructions.

***Download the free ruffle trim instructions at www.nancysnotions.com/dimeV104***

Bring the beauty of spring into your home while you embroider a Stroll in the Garden towel!

*Nancy Zieman is host and executive producer of Sewing With Nancy® on public television and founder of Nancy's Notions®. Embroidery thread, supplies, and a free catalog are available from Nancy's Notions®. Call 800.833.0690 or visit the Nancy's Notions website at nancysnotions.com.*

# Keep Your Memories Close

## WITH AN UPCYCLED **MEMORY ANIMAL**

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Design Pictured: *My Shirt Grandpa Embroidery Design (TM1120T1)*. Also available as *My Dress Grandma Embroidery Design (TM1122T1)*. Find full intructions for this project at EmbroideryDesigns.com/memoryanimal

# Subtle Tees

By Denise Holguin

# Breezy & Beautiful!

## Shopping

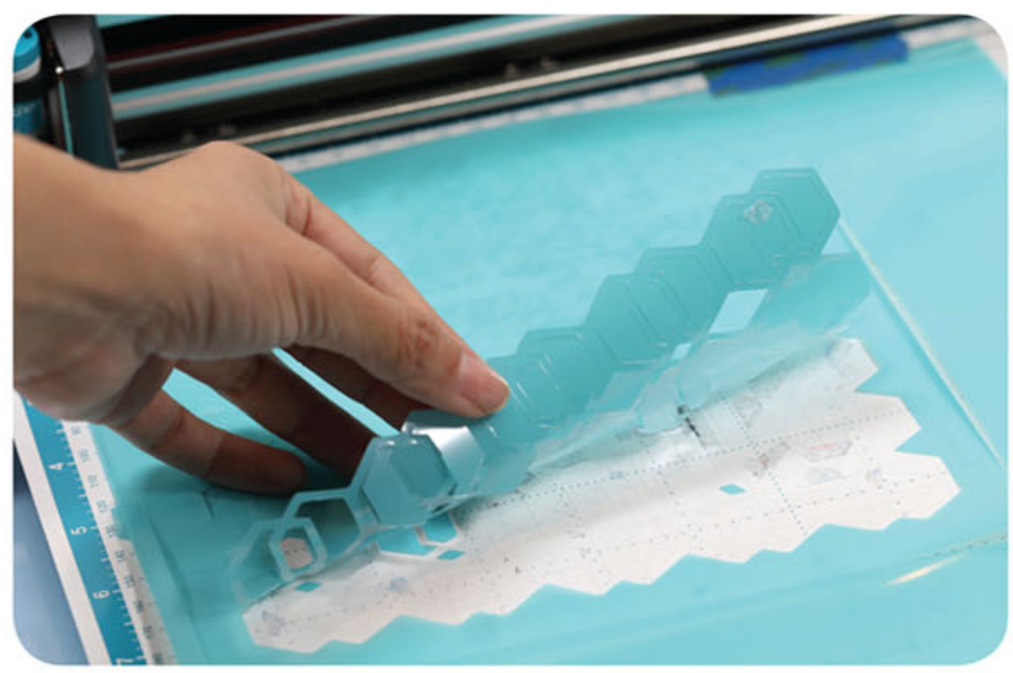
When you're shopping for shirts, be aware of the weight of the fabric. It will influence the type of embroidery design you use. For example, this shirt is a tissue-weight knit. I had to select a light-weight design. A dense or heavy design won't stitch well and it won't complement the shirt. My goal is to stitch a garment that looks like I purchased it off the rack with the embroidery included.

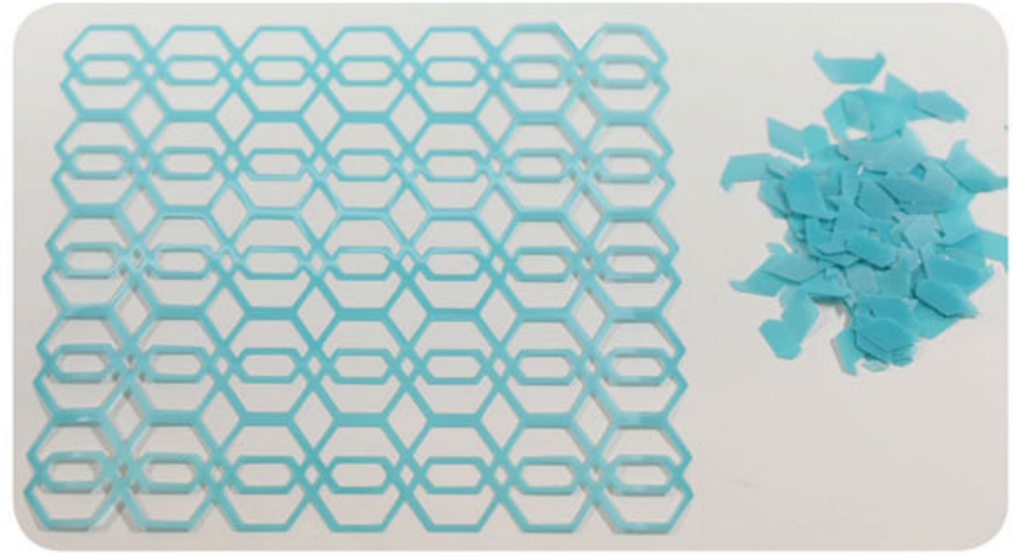
Since the knit was tissue-weight, I had to be sure the stabilizer could be completely removed. I didn't want any stabilizer to show through the fabric.

## Preparation

I decided to spray paint the shirt with a stencil for added character and depth. The stencil is a free Lattice design available from Designs in Machine Embroidery. Go to the Free Designs page to download the free cut file. If you don't have a cutter, purchase your own stencil from a craft store.

In the last issue I used Print and Stick Target Paper to make my stencil. This time I used plastic to make a reusable stencil. Plastic template sheets are available from your craft and hobby stores in the stencil aisle. The original stencil was larger than I needed. I masked the stencil with painter's tape.





For more details on how to spray paint a shirt, visit Eileen's Blog Search: "spray paint"

www.dzgns.com/blog/

**Design:** SOG Rose Bud
**Company:** Kreations by Kara
/ www.kreationsbykara.com

Once cut, I used Stencil Spray Adhesive from Tulip to temporarily secure the stencil to the shirt. This is an optional step but I like having the confidence of knowing my stencil is pressed down on the shirt as I spray. I applied Tulip ColorShot Instant Fabric Color spray paint in brown. I chose brown because it coordinates well with the tan colored shirt.

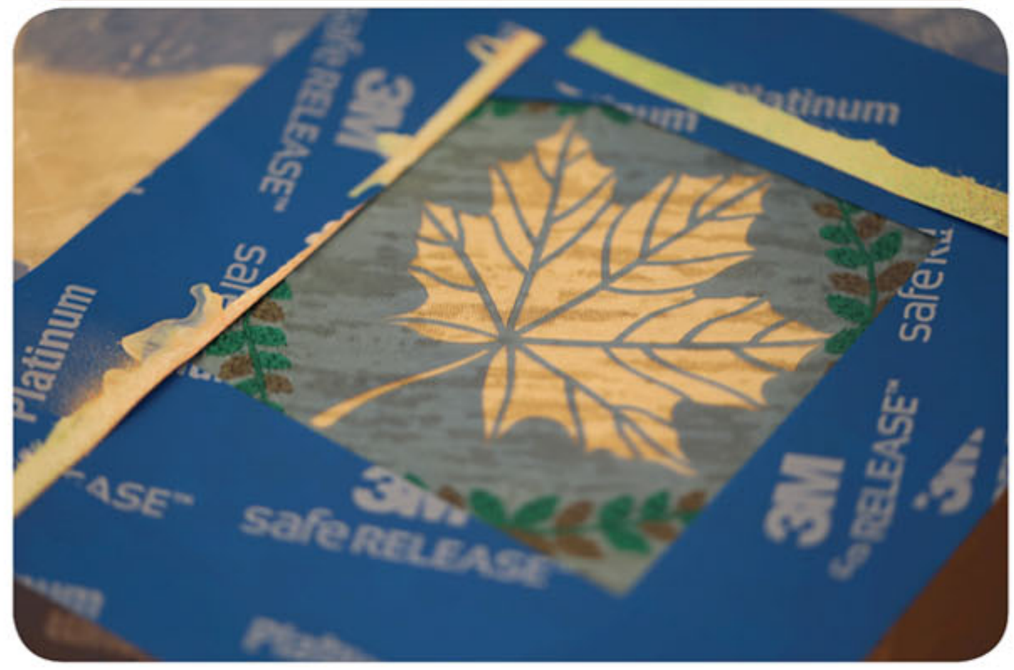
The spray painted design suggests lattice or ironwork. That inspired my memories of visiting rose gardens in Europe. It became obvious, I must embroider a light-weight rose design on this shirt. Let your own life experiences influence your embroidery projects.

When deciding placement for the rose design, I used one of my favorite pieces of advice from my coworker, Samuel Solomon: "It's a good idea to place designs off-centered. It adds visual interest – it makes you think." Aside from that, it also means I don't have to worry about centering the design on the t-shirt!

I chose blue thread to match the sleeves for a coordinated effect. You'll also notice the open-airy design mimics the lace sleeves.

# Leaves!

Normally I like to spray paint a large area of the garment then embroider a design on top. This time, I stitched the design first, and then I carefully spray painted a leaf in the center of the frame. I added buttons for texture.




*www.dzgns.com/blog/*

***Visit Eileen's Machine Embroidery Blog for more instruction. Search: "leaf lesson"***

**Design:** Leaves & Branches Garland Frame
**Company:** Stitchtopia / www.stitchtopia.com

# Hints of Havana

By Eileen Roche

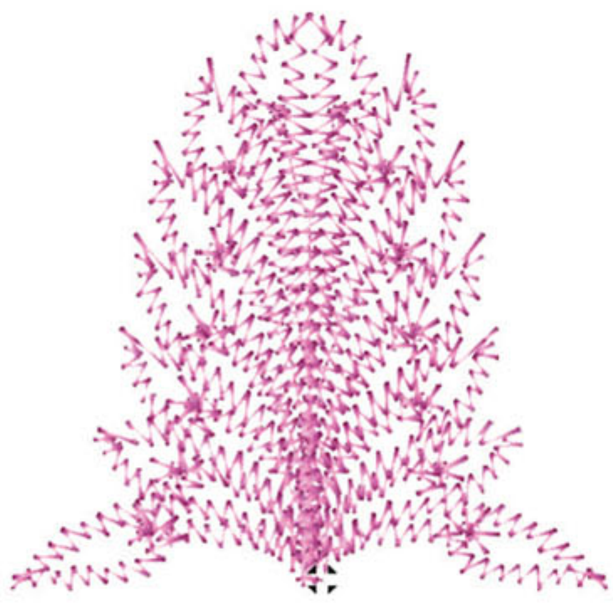
## Embroidery Products

Inspirations Vintage Embroidery Software
Inspirations Perfect Embroidery Pro digitizing software (optional but helpful)
Perfect Alignment Laser (PAL)
Supplies
Water soluble adhesive stabilizer
Threads: dime Rope 15 wt. polyester and Retro 40 wt. polyester
Topstitch needle size: 100/16
One cotton blend peasant blouse

## Step 1. Vintage Embroidery Software

Open a new file in Vintage Embroidery. Click on the Designs Library icon and retrieve the following designs:

*ABS_0090_D*

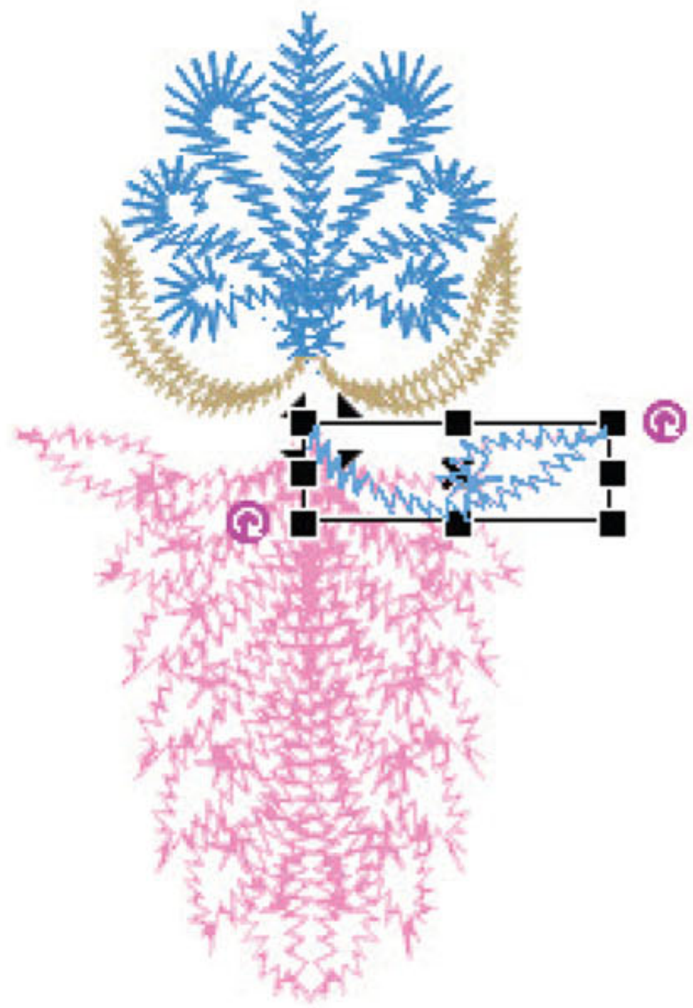


*ABS_0093_D*

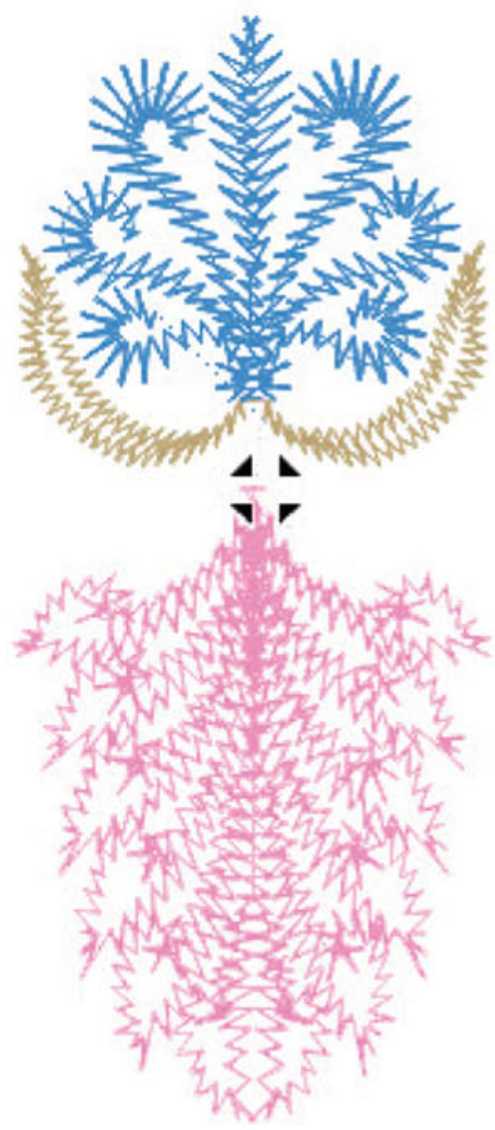
*FLO_0028_Flower*

*FLO_0097_Flower*

Place Abs_0090 in the center. Place ABS_0093 below it. Flip 0093 vertically. Ungroup 0093 and remove the leaf at the top right.

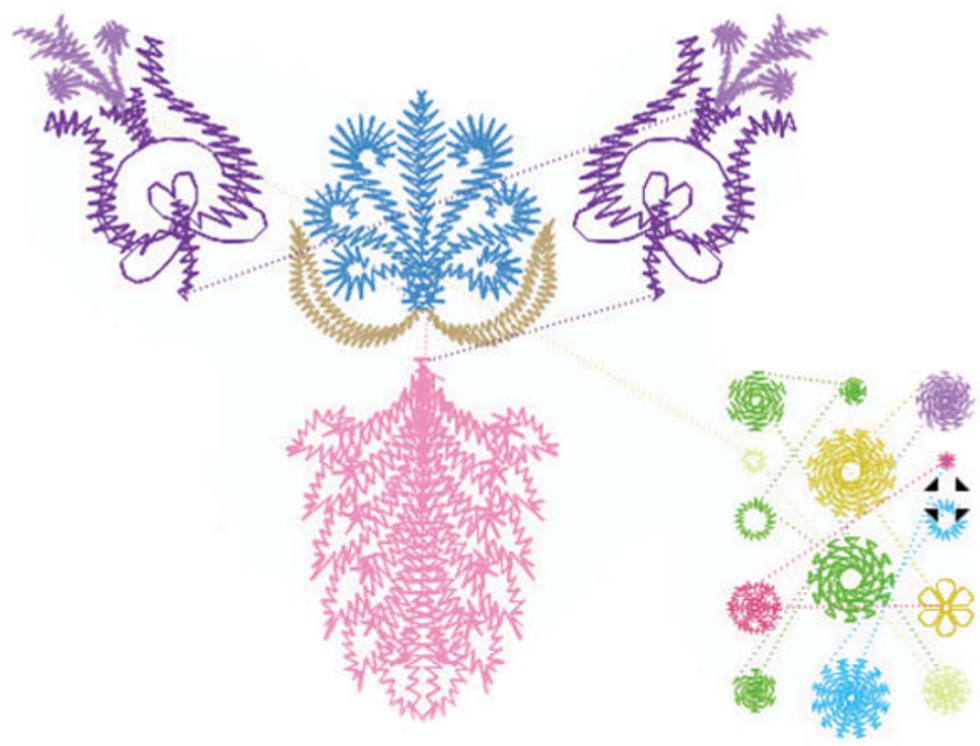


And the top left.

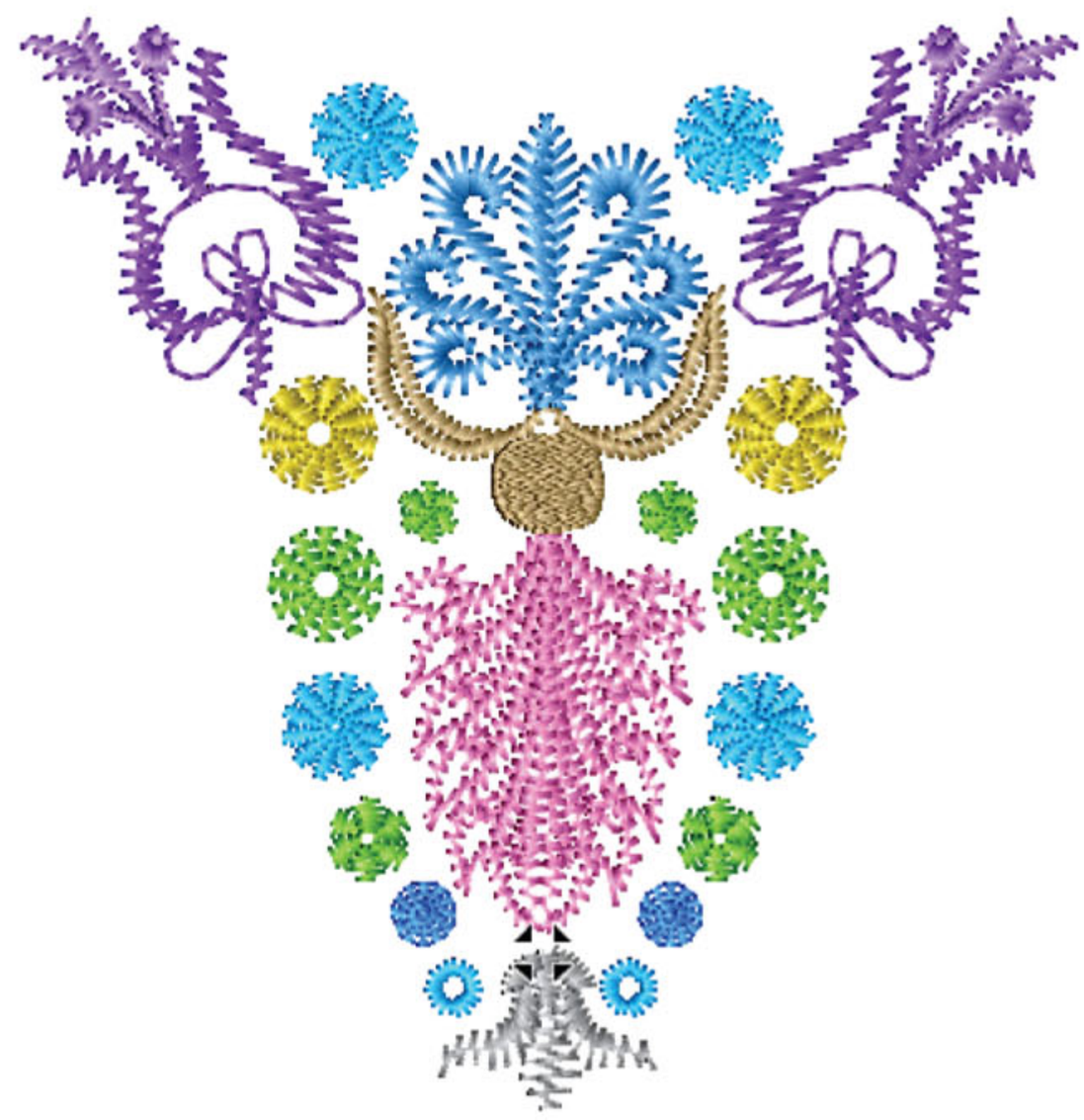


Add FLO_0028 at the top right. Copy, Paste and flip it horizontally. Move the second repeat to the left of the center designs. Use the alignment tools to position the designs symmetrically.

Merge FLO_0097 into the screen.



Delete the running stitch outline around the flowers. Carefully group each individual flower. One by one, select each flower and position it around the four larger motifs. The fastest way to do this is to position all the flowers on the right side then copy, paste and mirror image. Move the second set to the left of the larger motifs. The Group and Ungroup tool is helpful here. Use it when moving all sections and you won't leave any stray stitches behind. Save the design as PB.

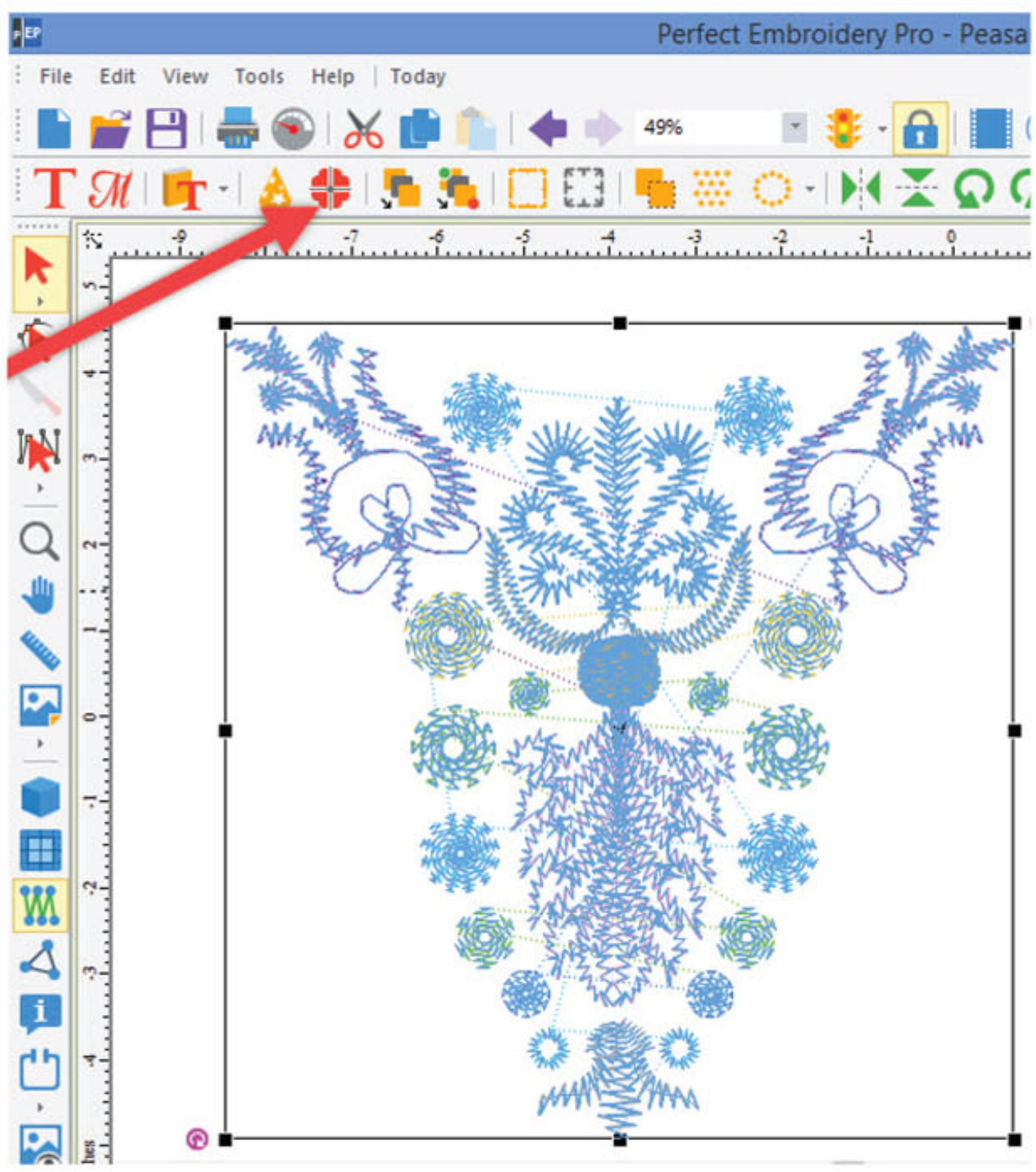


The PB design measures 230mm x 240mm. Since I don't have a hoop that wide, I'll split the design in Perfect Embroidery Pro.

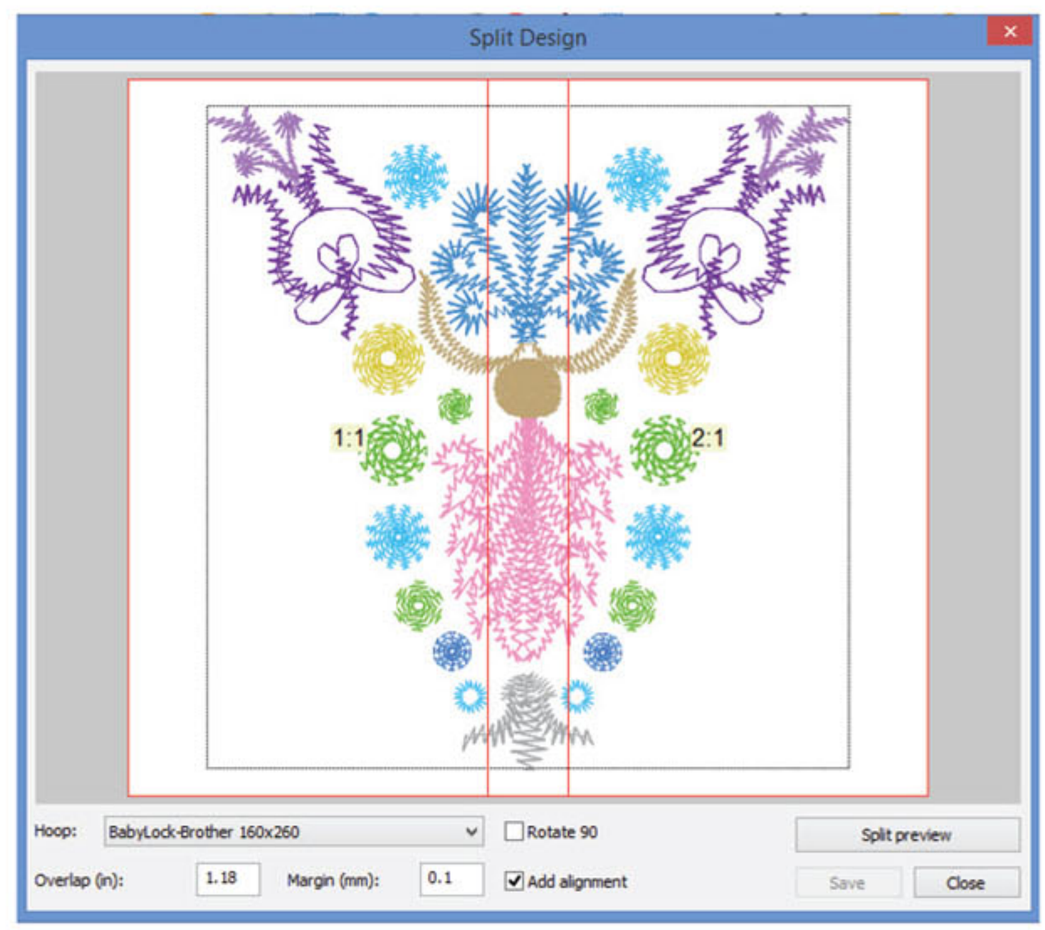
## *Eileen's Note*

*If you don't have Perfect Embroidery Pro, you can save PB in two hoopings. Don't split any of the motifs, just select two-thirds of the designs for the first hooping and the remainder for the second hooping. Print templates of both hoopings and use them to stitch the layout on the blouse.*

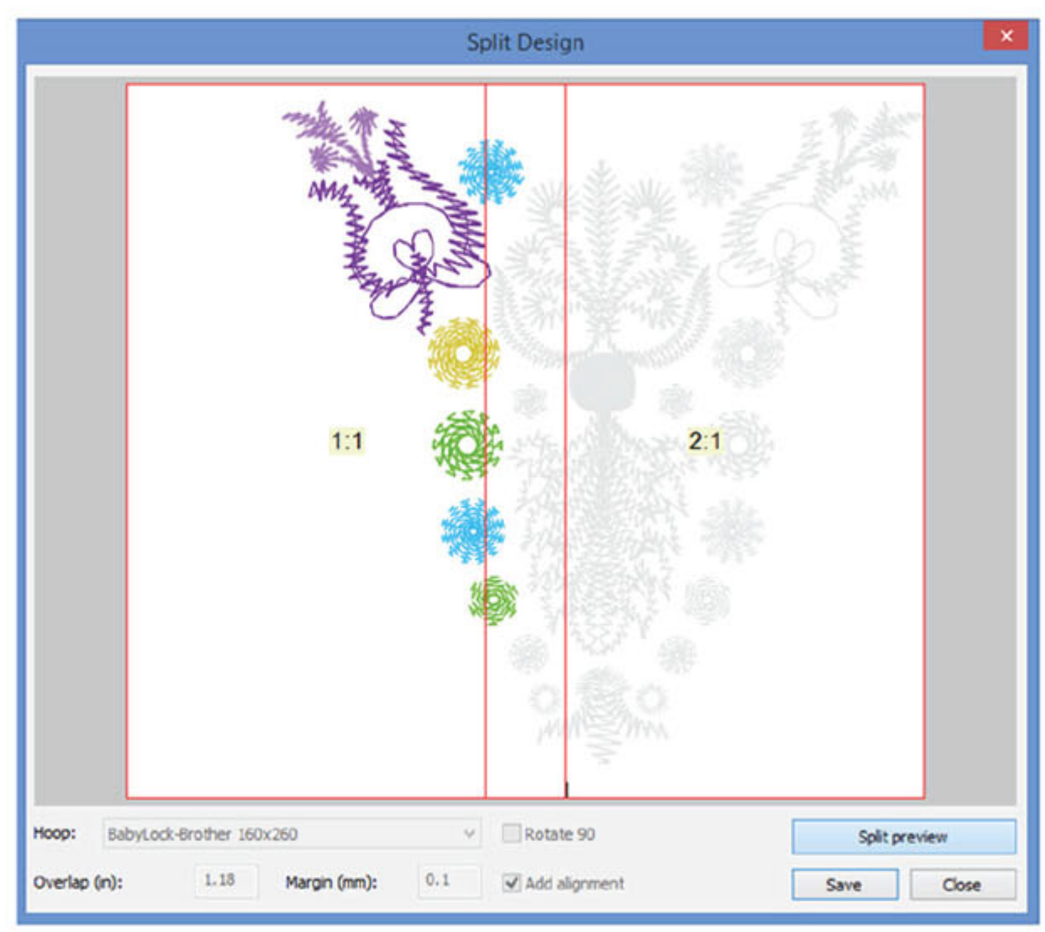
Open PB in Perfect Embroidery Pro. Select the design and click on the Split Design icon.



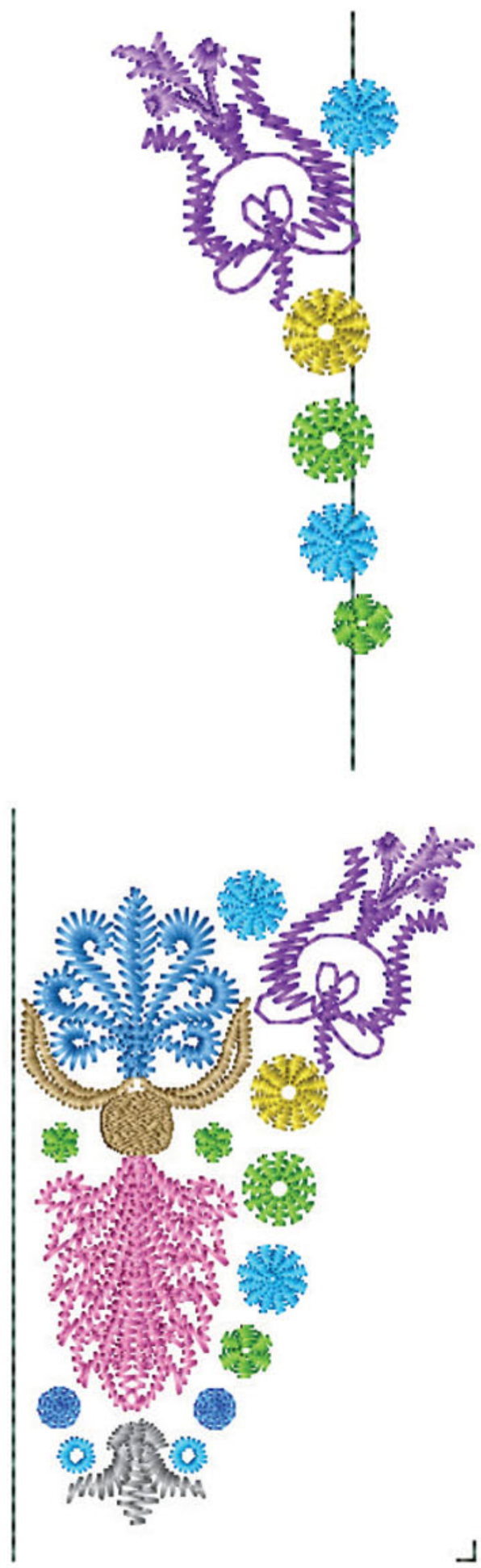

The Split window appears. Select your hoop from the drop down Hoop menu.




Place the cursor in the 1:1 and 2:1 segments to toggle back and forth until you have a split that you are comfortable with.



Click Save and the software will split and save the design into two files. Both files include a long basting line. Use this line to align the two hoopings.



## Step 2. Stitch

Print a template of the first hooping and place it on the blouse. Center the large motifs on the blouse. Do not center the template on the blouse, just the large motifs. Hoop water soluble adhesive stabilizer in a standard embroidery hoop and place the hoop on the end of an ironing board. Slip the blouse over the hoop, flattening and stretching the fabric below the elastic.

Carefully pull the blouse up over the hoop turning the sleeves inside out. Nest the excess fabric around the hoop. Stitch the first design.

Remove the blouse from the hoop. Hoop a second piece of adhesive water soluble stabilizer. Stitch color 1 of the second hooping, the long basting line, on the hooped stabilizer. Place the hoop under PAL, aligning the beam with the basting line. Place the shirt under the beam, aligning the basting line from the first hooping with the beam. Finger press the garment to the sticky stabilizer. Reattach the hoop to the machine and stitch the remainder of the design.

# Venerable Vintage

By Katherine Artines

**Think vintage means old?** Not so. The thesaurus gives us synonyms such as "best, choice, classic," and I totally agree. Inspirations Vintage Embroidery Software comes with 1500+ designs, digitized specifically for heavier weight thread, that are just as current today as ever. These two projects show the versatility of the designs—from a romantic denim vest to an "Essentials" purse. Because of the depth of texture achieved, these designs also look beautiful on home dec fabrics, twill, and canvas. Certainly, the designs can be stitched with regular 40 weight thread, but I love the look of crewel work obtained with the heavier thread.

## Embroidery Products

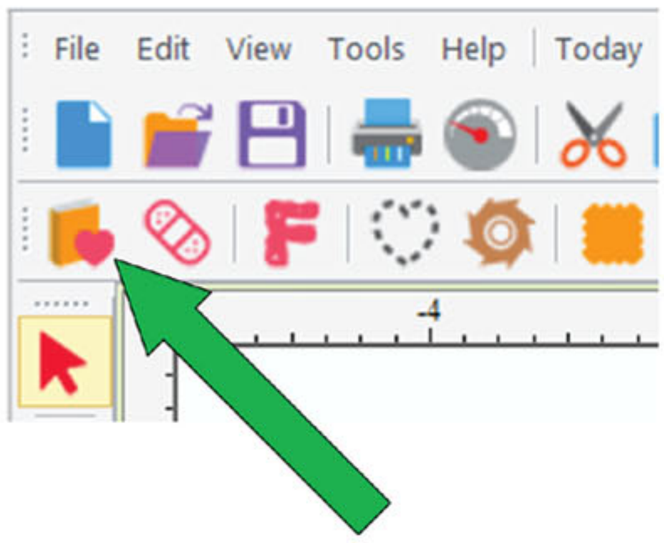
Inspirations Vintage Embroidery Software

## Supplies

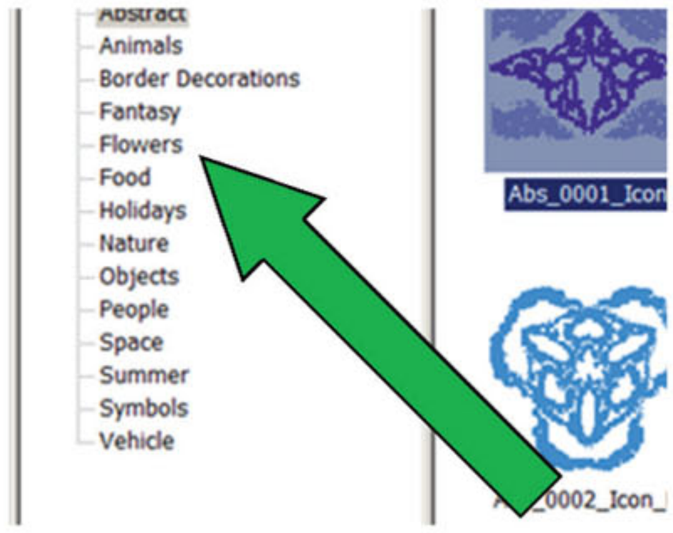
dime Rope 15 wt. and Retro 40 wt. polyester thread
Topstitch needle size 100/16
Stabilizers: Piece and Stitch tear-away, Sticky Stabilizer or water soluble adhesive, and wash-away stabilizer
Tulle, organza
Essentials purse fabric: ½ yd. body and lining
Optional: PAL2, Snap Hoop Monster, beads, chain, snap closure

## In the Software

Each design was used in its original state, no tweaking. Click on the first button of the second top toolbar: Designs.



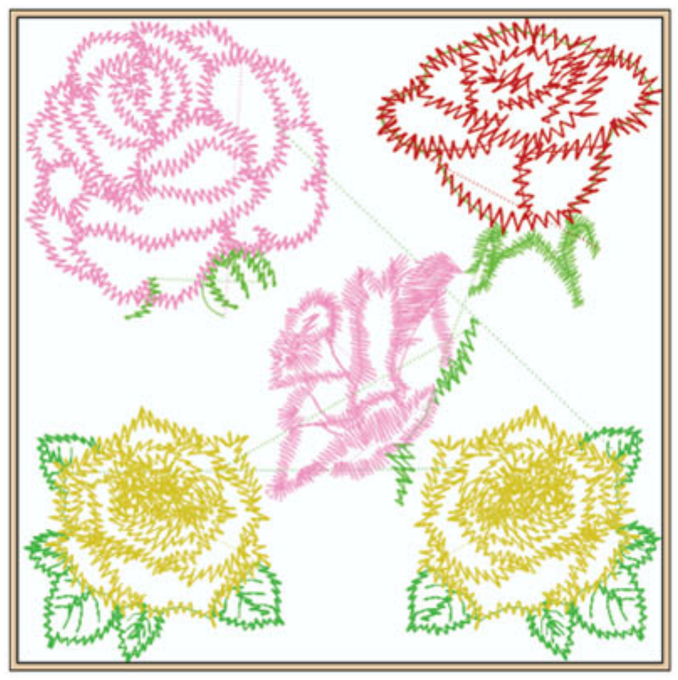

On the left, choose the category Flowers.




Bring each of the designs listed below to the screen separately and File / Save As / under File Type choose your machine format.

## Designs Used

To save time and materials, create a hoop full of roses to stitch out as a set for each selected thread color.



Templates for all designs were printed and cut to exact size to aid in placement possibilities.

They were particularly important for design placement on this vest because some designs are on the large side and the areas on the vest were narrow.

### The Embroidery Process

When using the 15 wt. thread, it is necessary to use a 100/16 topstitch needle. You might find it helpful to use a thread stand to position the spool in the upright position. It's wise to slow the machine speed and stay with the machine while it stitches.

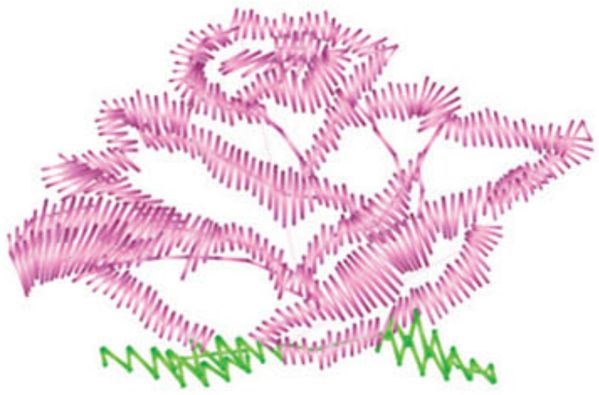
## Cut Line Designs

When you go into any of the Categories, you'll notice there are two of each, one with the letter D at the end and one without.

The designs without the D will come to the screen with a black dotted Cut Line surrounding the design.

This Cut Line comes in handy if you have a digital cutter or it can be printed on the template to cut out the design as a patch.

The designs ending in the letter D will not have the Cut Line.



If you own Perfect Embroidery Pro Inspirations Software, you can bring your Vintage designs directly to screen while in PEP and use all of your full digitizing features to continue to create.

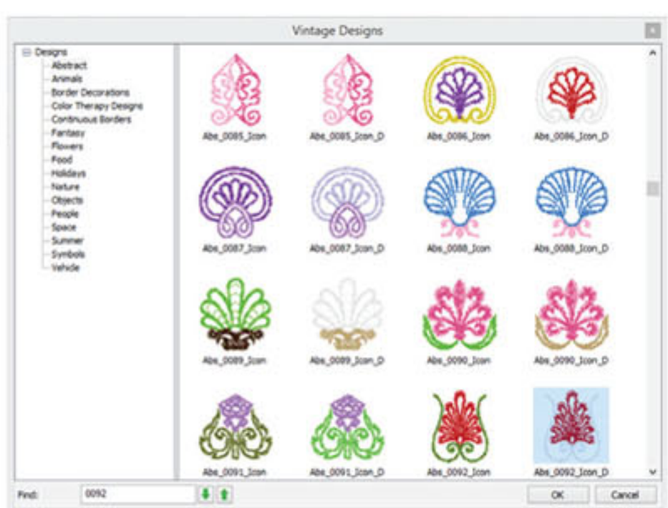
My vision for the vest back yoke was to fill it with dimension and texture. I found a multitude of layered roses would do the trick. To attain this look, stitch the roses on a layer of wash-away stabilizer, tulle, and organza. Make this sandwich for the size hoop you will be using. I filled one 8" x 8" hoop with White roses, a second with Cement, and a third in Llama Gray 15 wt. Rope thread.

After they were removed from the hoop, they were cut out, rinsed per manufacturer's instructions, air dried, and hand stitched in place where desired (or machine stitched in place). Beads were stitched in different parts of each rose with additional pieces of tulle tucked in sporadically.

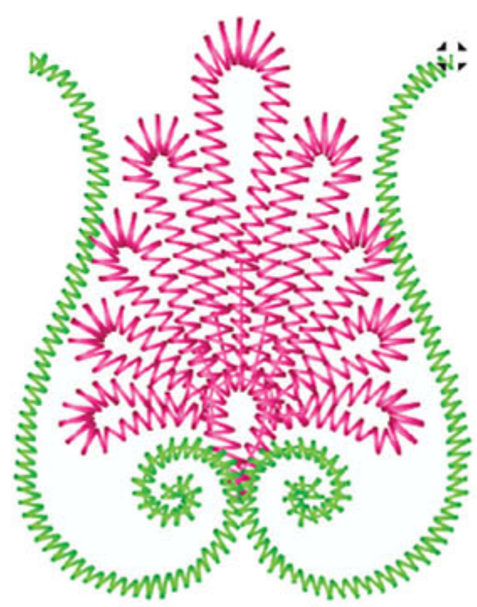
When the designs were stitched directly on the vest front, water soluble adhesive stabilizer was used with the appropriately sized Snap Hoop Monster. These hoops are perfect for denim clothing that is filled with thick seams, rivets, metal buttons, etc. The template was used to determine placement and PAL2 (Perfect Alignment Laser) was used to help with centered hooping.

# The Essential Items Purse

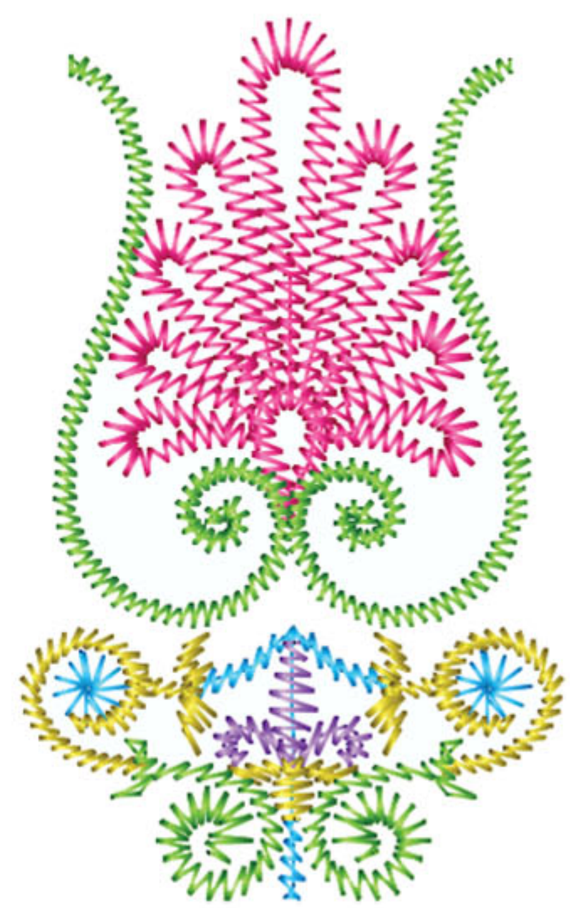
Open a new file in Vintage Embroidery Software, click the Designs icon. In the Abstract category, scroll down to Abs_0092_Icon_D and select it.




The design appears on the screen ungrouped. Because part of the design is in white, either turn on the Realistic View or change the white color on the Thread Bar at the bottom to a different color in the Dime 15 Vintage Rope thread chart. Once the colors are to your liking, select All and Group. Move the design up a bit.

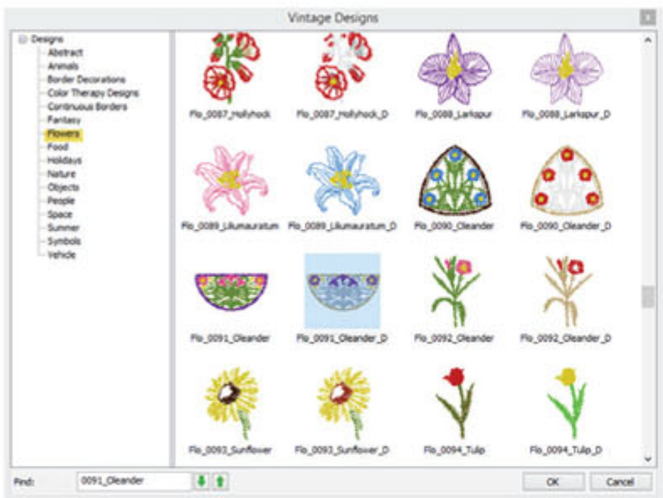


Repeat the process to bring abstract design scroll Abs_0187_Icon_D to the screen, change colors if desired, select all parts of this scroll design, Group. Drag the scroll in place at the bottom of the first design.

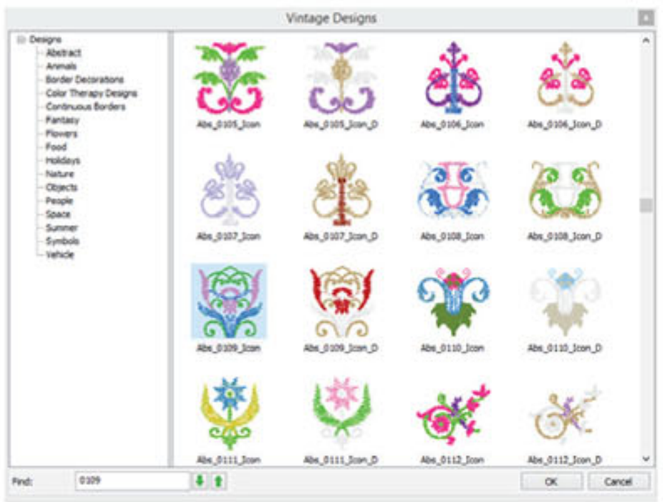


Select All / right-click, Align / Horizontal Center / right-click on Ruler / Center Origin. File / Save As purseback.c2s. Repeat the Save As process and choose your machine format type.

In a new file, click on the Designs icon and select the Flower category. Enter Flo_0091_Oleander_D in the search box and click the down arrow.

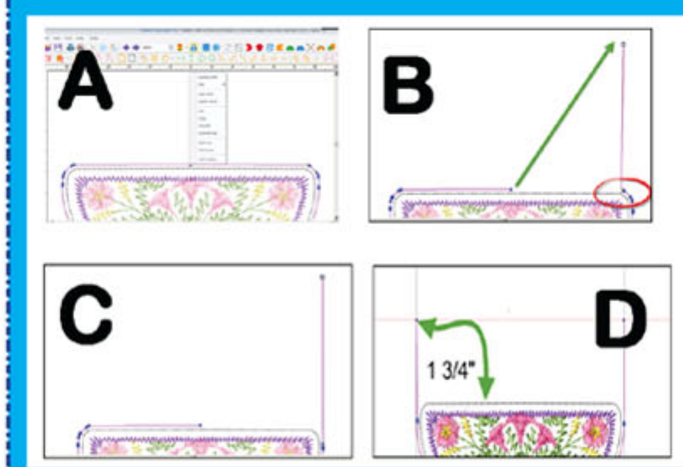



Save the design in your machine format type. Repeat for the front design, Abstract / Abs_0109_Icon_D.




## *Katherine's Tip*

*If you own both Perfect Embroidery Pro and DIME Vintage software packages, you could create the flap as an in-the-hoop design. Save Abs_0187_Icon in Vintage Embroidery Software as a c2s file. Open the design in Perfect Embroidery Pro. Select the black dotted Cut Line, right-click and choose Create Outline. The Cut Line is 4 mm away from the design; for a ¼" seam, set the outline distance to 2 mm; which will give the 6 mm needed. Select the outline, click on the Shape tool, right-click on the middle of the horizontal top, choose Split Line (view A).*




*Drag the point straight up about 2". Delete the multiple points at the curve (views B and C). Drag Guidelines to help ensure the vertical side lines are straight and parallel at 1 ¾" above the top stitching (view D). This will leave the top open for turning. Convert the outline to Run, Two-ply, stitch length = 2.5. Right-click the outline and Convert To a Run stitch, Stitch length = 2.5 mm. Place this color as the last color. Save as a c2s file and then again in your machine format file.*

Hoop black fabric with Piece & Stitch tear-away stabilizer for each design: the front, the back combo, and the flap. Leave enough room between each hooping to accommodate the size of the finished purse.

At the machine, once the decorative embroidery is stitched, place a piece of lining fabric on top of the hoop, right side down. Stitch the outline.

Remove all fabric from the hoop and trim closely along the outline around the curve. Turn right side out and press.

Without digitizing software, use these steps to cut out the purse sections. Of the three designs used, the back combo is the widest at 4". Add 3" to that width for a cut width of 7" and a finished width of 6" (½" seam allowances).

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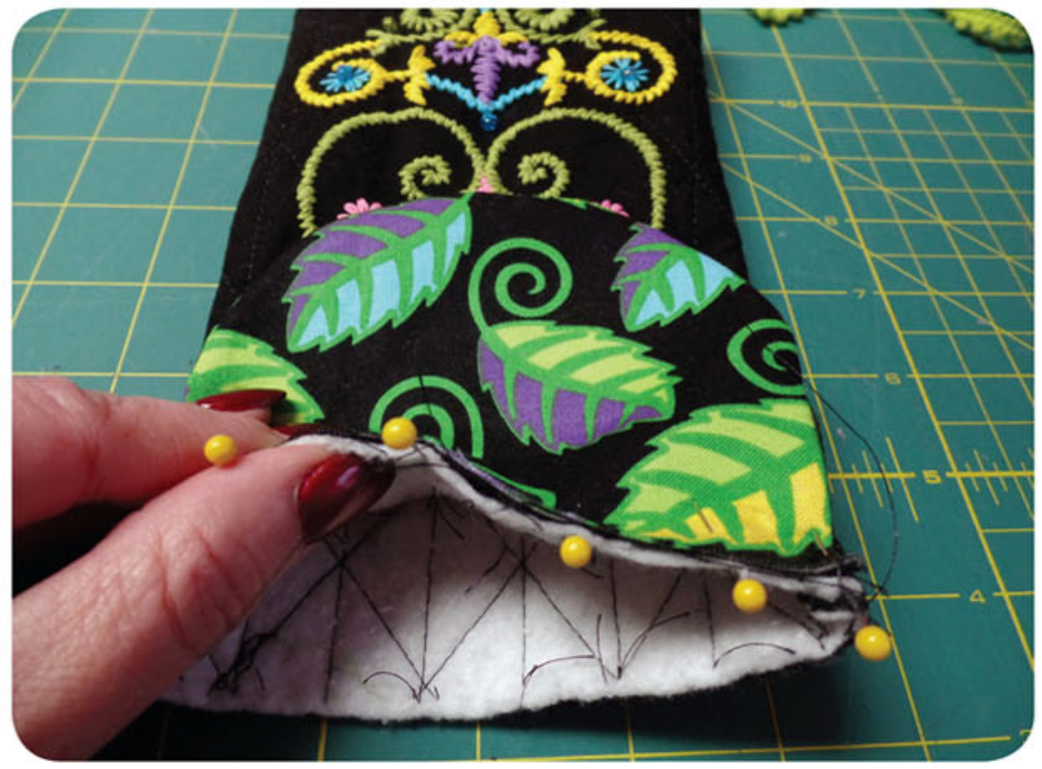
Add 2" to the 6 ½" tall back embroidered panel (1" at the top and 1" at the bottom).

## *Katherine's Tip*

*If quilting is desired, layer the front piece and the back piece with batting and do so before cutting to the measurements calculated. Once all quilting is finished, trim to the measurements calculated for the purse. Sew beading on at this time.*

Trim the flap 1 ¾" above the horizontal line of embroidery. Match the width of the flap to the width of the purse body; in this case, 7". Cut a piece of lining for the flap the same size, place right sides together and stitch with a ½" seam allowance, leaving the top open. Clip close to the stitch line at the curve; turn right side out and press from the back.

With right sides together, sew the front purse to the back purse at the sides and across the bottom using ½" seams. Clip and trim seams; turn right side out. Pin the flap to the back of the purse at the top, right sides together.



The turned edges of the flap should fit just inside the side seams. Cut lining pieces for the front and back to match your purse pieces; sew with ½" seams down the sides only, leaving top and bottom open. Trim seams. Slide lining over the purse and align the top of the lining with the top of the purse/flap, matching at side seams. Sew together at the top with ½" seams. Clip the seam allowance but don't trim. Pull the lining over the purse to have right side out; turn in bottom seam and stitch across bottom. Push lining down into purse. Add any trim as desired. Add chain as the handle and a snap closure.

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# Handmade in the USA

By Diane Kron, *Software and Embroidery Projects Manager for Designer's Gallery®*

# Create an easy star spangled table runner to show your patriotic spirit this summer! Yay for the Red, White and Blue!

## Embroidery Products

Baby Lock® Destiny II sewing and embroidery machine

## Supplies

1 purchased fringed burlap table runner
1 yd. patriotic cotton print fabric
Stick-Tear, Tear-Away Baby Lock stabilizer
Madeira Polyester Embroidery (Red, White & Blue) and Cotona sewing thread
Frixion marking pen
Basic sewing and embroidery supplies

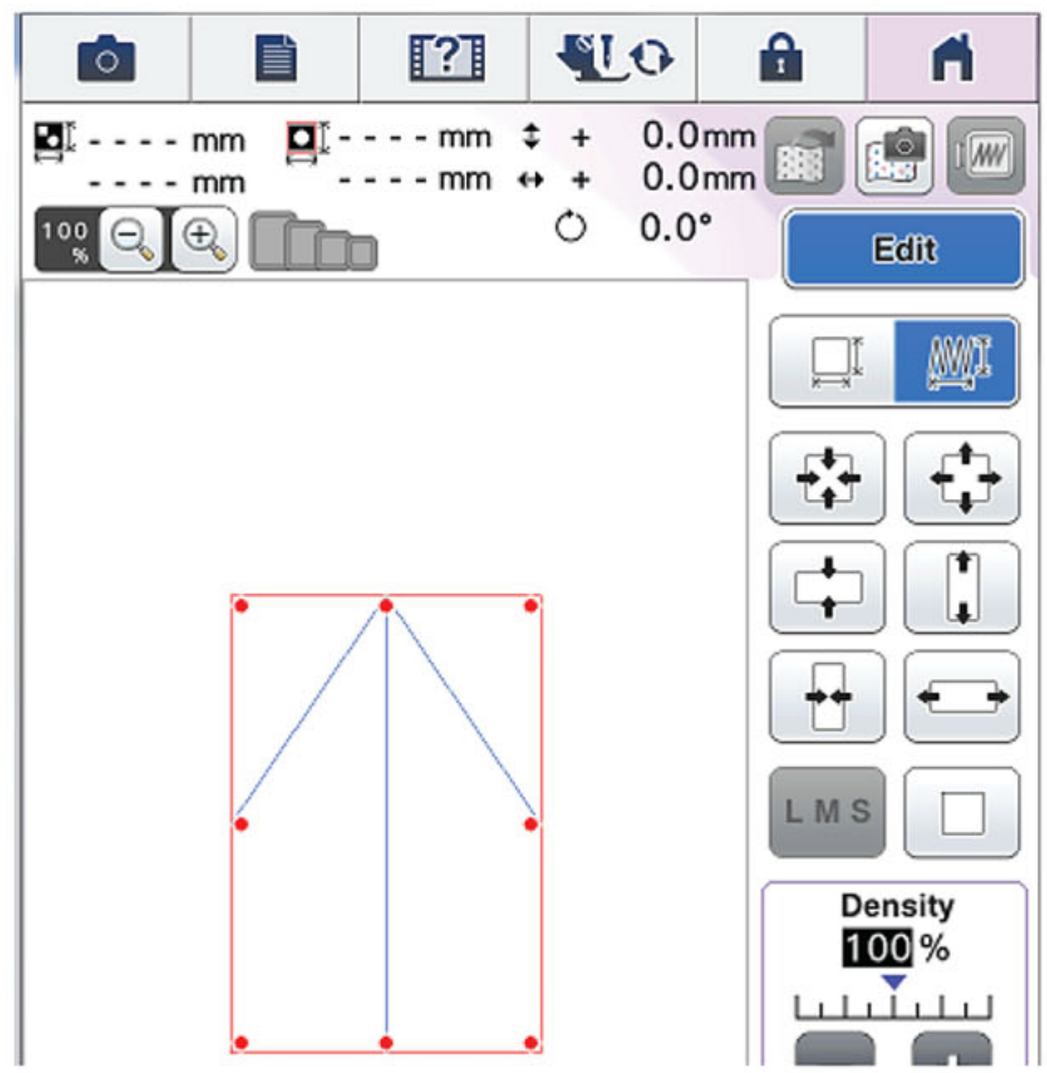
## Instructions

Hoop the stabilizer in the 200mm x 300mm hoop with the shiny side of the stabilizer facing up. Score the top layer inside the hoop and tear it away to expose the sticky side of the stabilizer. Set aside.

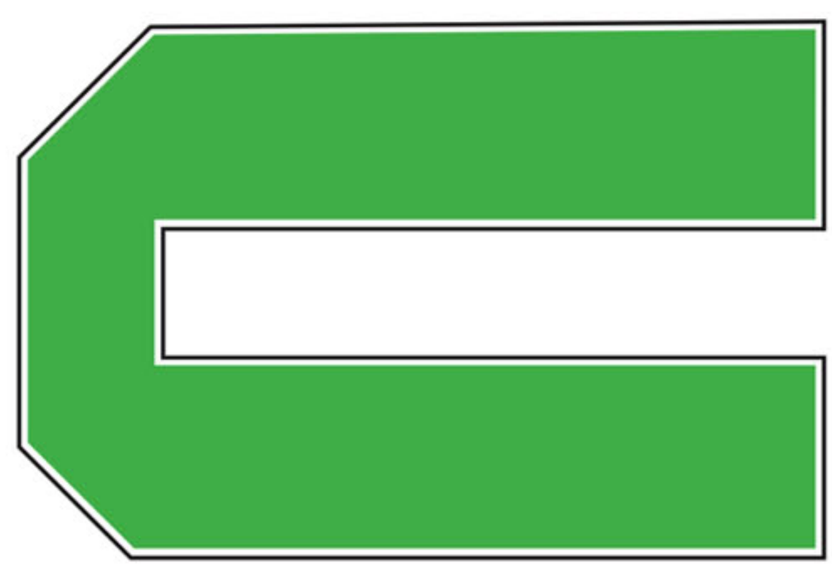
Set up the machine for embroidery and select Embroidery from the home screen. Click on the Number 4 Font. Select the Varsity font as shown below in green.

Scroll down and select the uppercase letter "U". Set the letter.

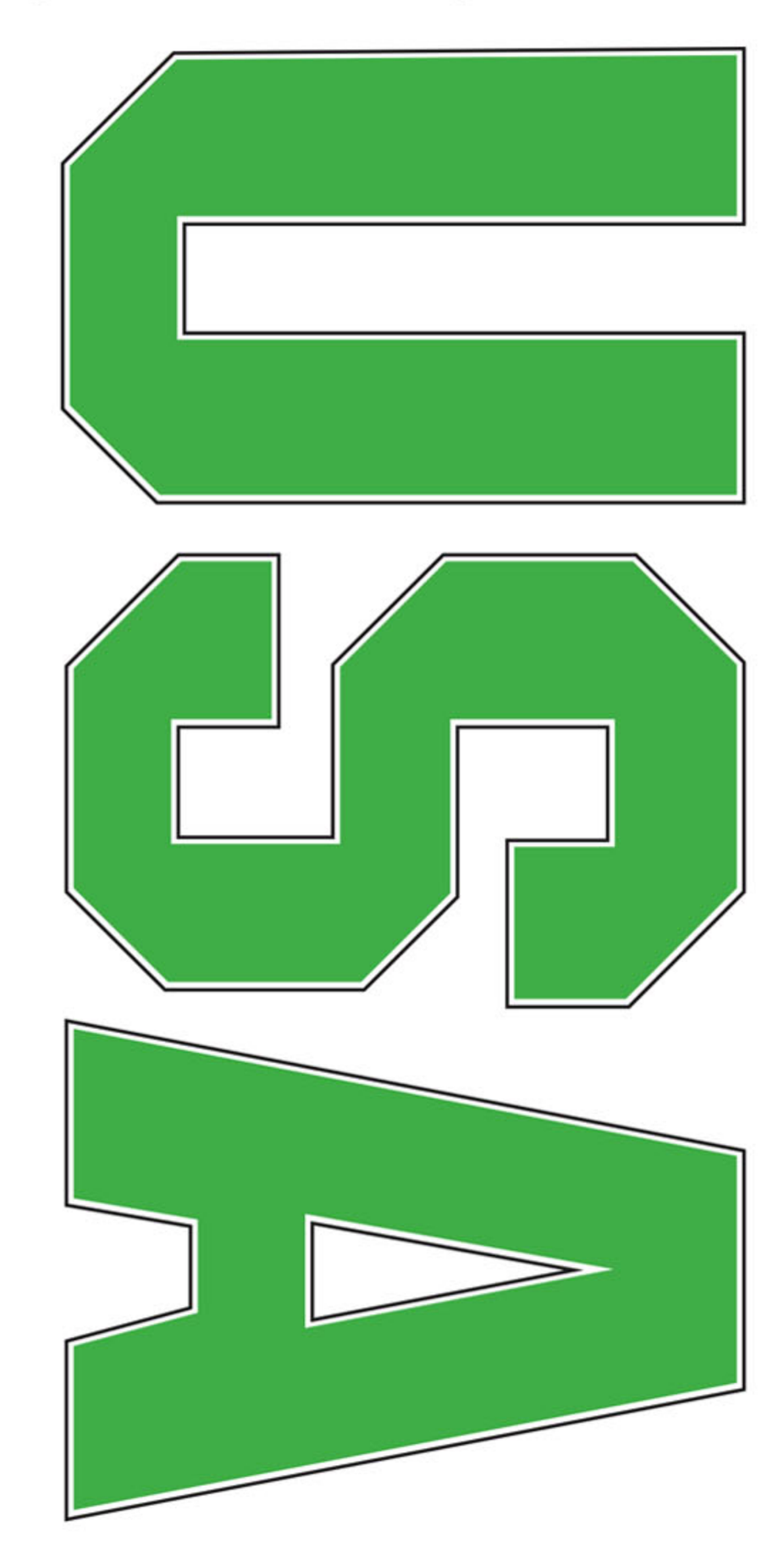
In the next screen, click on Edit. Click on Size. Select the second size option as shown in the highlighted blue box. This field will allow you to resize the design while maintaining the original stitch density. Click on the decrease size icon until it reaches its smallest size. (2.44" x 3.00")




Click on Rotate and rotate the letter 90˚ to the right. Move it to the top of the screen.



Repeat Steps 3 - 5 for the "S" and the "A". Center the design in the middle of the hoop.



Determine the placement of the letters on the table runner. Measure 5 ½" up from the bottom edge of the runner; measure the width of the table runner and divide by two. Place a cross-mark where these two measurements meet. This will be the center of the embroidery design.

Float the table runner over the hoop with the crosshair on the runner centered in the hoop. Finger press to secure. Repeat this step for the opposite side of the table runner.

Place the hoop on the embroidery unit. Verify the design is placed correctly. The needle should be centered over the cross-marked lines. Move the letters as needed.

Embroider the letters in Madeira red, white and blue polyester thread.

Cut several 2" wide strips across the width of the cotton print fabric. Piece ends together to make one long strip. These strips will be placed around the outer edges and diagonally throughout the center of the table runner. Fold and press the strip lengthwise to create a center line. Fold each of the raw edges inward to the center and press. Fold the outer edges together to form the bias strip.

Pin the bias strip ½" above the lettering at an angle from edge to opposite edge. Fold the bias at the table runner edge and continue to pin it across the runner at a diagonal. Go back and forth until you have reached the lettering on the opposite side of the runner. Make adjustments as needed so that both ends look the same with accurate spacing. Set up the machine for straight stitch sewing. Top stitch both sides of the bias strip to secure.

To finish the runner, pin the bias strip along the long and short edges on the runner and sew in place along both edges on the bias strip.

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*Dating to 1907, the bodice is French, part of a bridal trousseau.*

# Breathing New Life into Old Linens

By Debbie Henry

*There is nothing quite like the feel of heirloom linens.* One touch is pure luxury, silky soft but extremely strong as only natural fibers can be. The more you use them, the better they feel.

Then, there is the nostalgia factor, those wonderful days of fine china and cut flowers offset by starched napkins, when homemaking was an art form.

As the world's strongest natural fiber, linen produces fine-quality heirloom fabrics that have withstood the test of time. So why keep them hidden away? Add some embroidery and put them to use!

## Embroidery Products

Eyelet 006 design available at www.AppliquéForKids.com
Flowing Flowers Accent FQ862_48 designs available at www.Embroidery Online.com

**Download Pamela's Joy Freebie design available at GracefulEmbroidery.com**

Monogram of choice

## Embroidery Supplies

Fabric-type water soluble stabilizer
Water soluble topper
Polymesh cut away stabilizer
Temporary spray adhesive
75/10 sharp needle

## Choosing Designs for Embroidering Heirlooms

For authenticity, dainty florals, redwork and light monograms are traditional choices for delicate linens.

## Preparing Linens for Embroidery

As long as the pieces are clean, they do not need to be laundered. Heavy starch can act as an additional stabilizer and it can always be washed out after embroidery.

Linen should be pressed according to their fiber content using heavy steam. For stubborn wrinkles, spraying with water is also helpful.

Threads, from top to bottom: 40 wt. rayon, 50 wt. silk, 50 wt. cotton 60 wt. cotton. Design is Eyelet 006 from Appliqué for Kids.

## Thread Considerations

Today's rayon and polyester threads provide a beautiful sheen. Another consideration is silk and cotton. Silk thread is strong and reflects light like rayon while cotton is even more traditional with a matte finish.

Design colors should be kept to a minimum. Even designs digitized for multiple colors can be stitched in a single color for tone-on-tone presentations typical of heirloom projects.

Be sure to use the smallest needle possible for the job. Sharps make embroidery crisp and clean.

Consider stitching a trial run on a similar piece. Stained and damaged linens work well as testers.

## Stabilizers

Two layers of no-show mesh stabilizer, hooped with one perpendicular to the other, provide a solid base for embroidery. Float the linen over the hooped stabilizer, securing it in place with temporary spray adhesive. Add a basting stitch outline for additional hold.

## Cutwork Doily

This cotton doily is beautiful as a table accent or hanging over the side of a basket. The cutwork is very simple and adding an embroidery design makes it extraordinary.

Hoop as instructed above. After embroidery, trim stabilizer close to the design.

## Monogrammed Towel

Towels just beg for embroidery, don't they? Damask linens are particularly lovely and are considered fine linen due to the intricate patterns woven into them.

This hand towel was a bit of a challenge since the damask design was off center.

Lightly pressing a fold through what will be the design's central motif provides a guideline for hooping.

Hoop and stabilize as instructed above. After embroidery, trim stabilizer close to the design.

After embroidery, clip stabilizer close to stitching. Press if necessary. Adjusting the fold assures that the design is properly centered for display.

## Elegant Framed Monogram

Perhaps there is nothing more romantic than a beautiful monogram stitched on damask linen. Pop it in an ornate frame, even a vintage flea market find, and you have a wonderful heirloom.

Hoop and stabilize as instructed above. This linen napkin had an inner frame of woven damask so it was easy to center on point in the hoop.

Because the monogram design included areas of fine embroidery, a layer of water-soluble film was pinned in place as a topper. Toppers keep delicate parts of the design from sinking into the fabric.

## *Debbie's Tip*

*Save trimmed scraps of water-soluble film left over from other projects. They are perfect for use as a topper on smaller embroideries. Smaller pieces can be slightly overlapped for use on larger designs. Be sure to keep scraps in an air-tight container and label them.*

After embroidery, carefully tear topping away from stitches and trim stabilizer close to the stitching on the back.

Press the embroidered piece from the back, placing it face down on a layer of terrycloth or heavy flannel. Cover the frame insert with a layer of low-loft batting, center the embroidered monogram over the batting, and pop the piece in the frame. Glass was removed from the frame so it would not crush the embroidery.

## Hemstitched Napkins

In its original state, this damask napkin, with intricate hemstitching, was already quite lovely. Adding embroidery demands a subtle design such as redwork or linework.

Flowing Flowers Accent FQ862_48, by Embroidery Online, is up to the task. Hoop a fabric-type water soluble stabilizer and float the napkin, securing it with temporary spray adhesive or pins.

Stitch the design using matching thread in the bobbin for a clean appearance on the right and wrong side of the napkin.

When embroidery is finished, remove as much stabilizer as possible. Spray with water or soak to remove any remaining stabilizer.

*Aging stains are common, even if linens were clean when they were stored. With care, many can be eliminated.*

*Ava Yager of Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania, grew up appreciating fine linens. Her mother gathered them from across the globe and sold them in her antique shop. Ava continues that tradition, lovingly gathering, cleaning, and pressing heirlooms for others to acquire and enjoy. She has kindly shared the following tips.*

### Washing and Treating Vintage Linens

Silk or satin type fabrics are best washed by hand with a mild detergent like Woolite® or Dreft®. If stained, Borax can be added.

Sturdier linen/cotton blends can be machine washed on the delicate cycle. More often than not, items should be soaked overnight with cold water and OxiClean™ before laundering. Spots or stains that remain can be treated with Fels-Naptha® soap which also can be used to pre-treat obvious stains.

In extreme cases boiling or washing with Cascade® can be done.

Line dry in the sun (nature's bleach) and clean the line with a Clorox wipe before hanging every time. Otherwise, lay items flat to dry. If you are unable to hang washed items right away, store them in the refrigerator to prevent mildew.

For stains that show after drying, use a Clorox® Bleach Pen on whites and spray with water. Stains usually disappear by the time the piece dries. For colored items, a Tide® to GO pen or OxiClean™ spray works well.

# Artisan Apron

By Joanne Banko

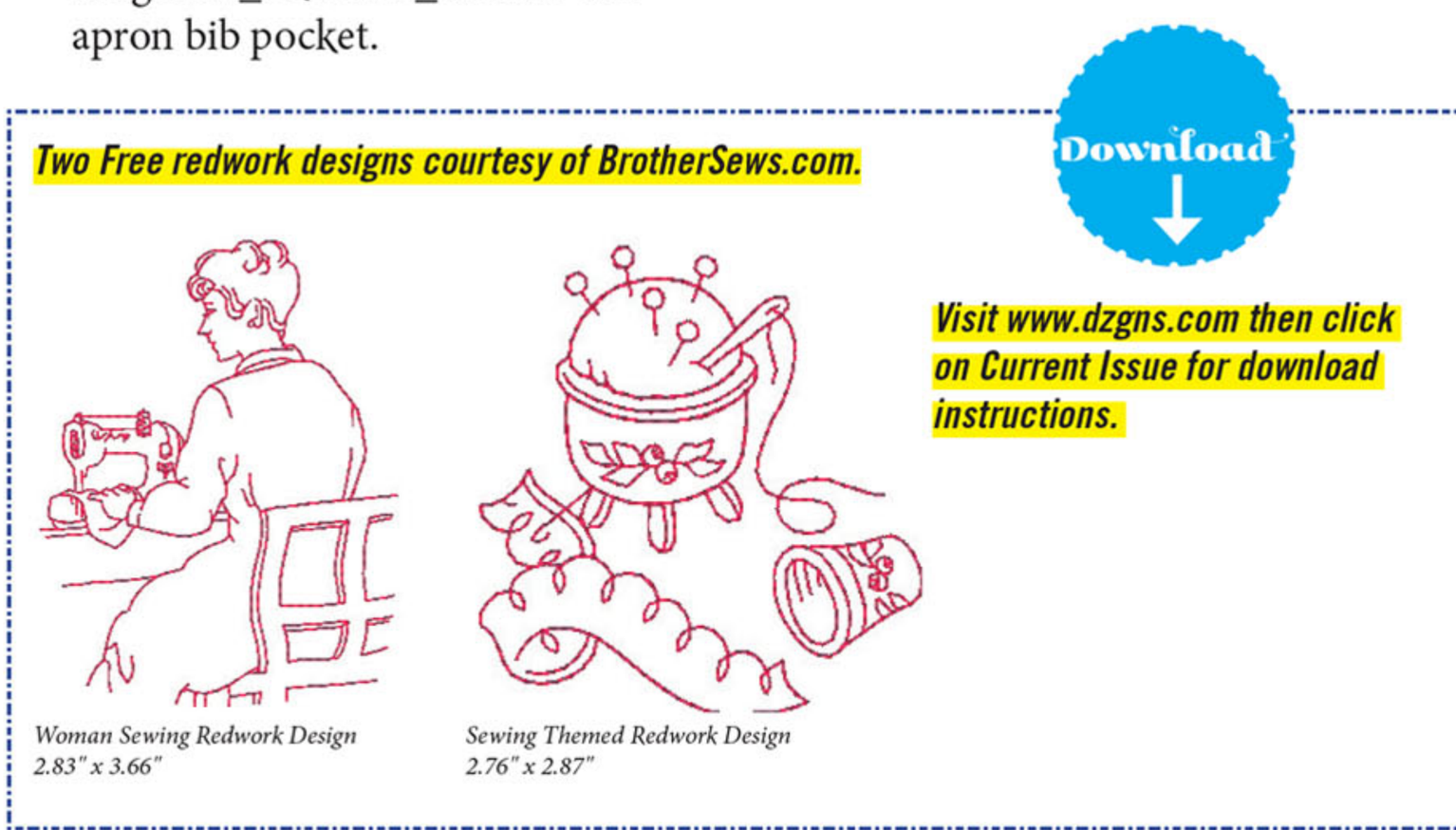
Making an apron stirs up nostalgic memories of my first real foray into the wonderful world of sewing. It all started in home economics class with a clunky machine that had very few options for creative embellishments. Limitations aside, I joyfully stitched a lime green floral print apron "decorated" with lots of crooked topstitching!

Today, bold and beautiful stitches are possible at the touch of a button. The artistry involved in making even a simple apron is enhanced with options for machine embroidery and decorative stitches. These stitches closely mimic time-honored yet time consuming handwork. This charming Artisan apron is decorated with antique motifs that celebrate a bygone era yet it is made using the many design possibilities a modern machine provides.

## Embroidery Products

8" x 8" and 4" x 4" hoops
I used the Brother Dream2 Machine, Model XV8550D
Tear-away stabilizer
**dime** Target Stickers
Free pocket designs:
letsgosew_PktPart1_8X8 and letsgosew_PktPart2_8X8 for the apron bib pocket.

***Two Free redwork designs courtesy of BrotherSews.com.***




*Woman Sewing Redwork Design*
*2.83" x 3.66"*

*Sewing Themed Redwork Design*
*2.76" x 2.87"*

***Visit www.dzgns.com then click on Current Issue for download instructions.***

Purchased redwork designs from the Brother iBroidery™ design download site at www.ibroidery.com:

*Redwork Design - Item Number: 65044*
*Girl Ironing*
*2.44" x 3.62"*

*Redwork Design - Item Number: 65045*
*Girl Sewing*
*2.64" x 3.54"*

*Redwork Design - Item Number: 65061*
*Assorted Sewing Items*
*3.35" x 3.27"*

## Supplies

The Artisan Apron pattern by MollyMade
Pattern paper or pattern tracing cloth
Notions as per pattern
1½ yd. rickrack
Fabric spray starch
Low tack tape
Coordinating print and solid fabrics for apron pieces. Fabric yardage varies according to your personal selections. Please read through entire first step and make sure you have all pattern pieces prepared before shopping for fabric.

## *Joanne's Note*

*I used approximatley1½ yards of solid and 1½ yards of print, cutting pocket pieces and most of the completely concealed lining pieces from the solid, and using print for all other pieces.*

## *Joanne's Fabric and Pattern Tips*

*This apron pattern features plenty of pockets and details that are both practical and extremely unique. Part of the fun in making this apron is choosing a mix of fabrics. Keep in mind that the apron is designed for quilt weight cottons. You will need a solid fabric for embroidered pockets. I chose to use the same solid for waist ties, accent trim and small details, and for lining main sections of the apron. Refer to finished apron photo as a guide for combining solid and print fabrics. Visit www.letsgosew.com for more tips, variations, and photos of additional MollyMade Artisan Aprons.*

## Step 1. Prepare pattern and cut fabric pieces for apron.

I prefer to use pattern tracing cloth or pattern paper to make patterns for pieces listed on the fabric-cutting chart included with the pattern. Label all pattern pieces and review the instructions before purchasing fabrics. Yardage will vary according to your mix of print and solid fabric. I suggest using your actual pattern pieces to create a mock layout for figuring yardage, or take the actual pieces with you when you shop.

Modify pattern pieces as described below:

- Eliminate binder strip "F" for lower pocket.
- Add ½" seam allowance along the fold line for lower pocket "M." Use the modified pattern piece for the embroidered pocket and for cutting a matching lining piece.
- To avoid covering up the decoratively stitched waist strip, cut waist tie strap "D" into two separate pieces measuring 36" x 4". During construction, sew the two straps separately and insert at the waistline when sewing lining to apron.

Cut all required pieces from your print fabric. Cut all required pieces from solid fabric, including the following oversized pieces for embroidered pockets:

- One piece 12" x 16" for embroidered bib pocket. Fuse medium weight interfacing to the wrong side.
- One 8 ½" square for lining embroidered bib pocket.
- One piece 24" x 10" for embroidered lower pocket, cut from modified pattern piece M.

## *Joanne's Tip*

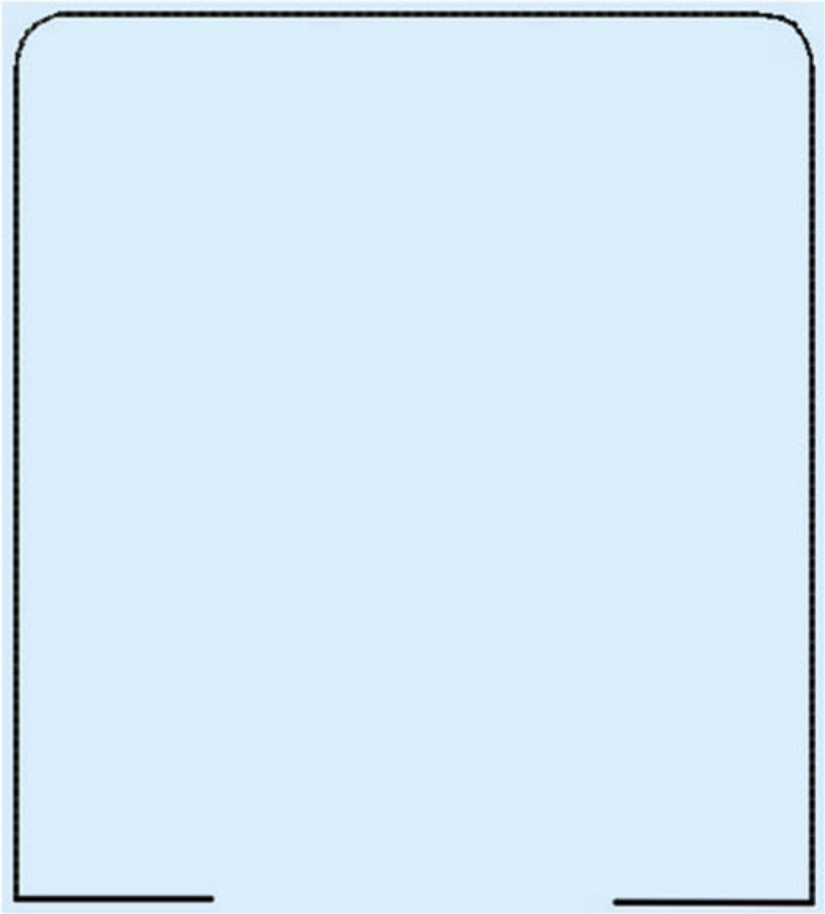
*The Artisan apron includes a number of delightful design details. With added embroidery the flow of construction is just a bit different. The basic formula for creating the apron is simply a matter of embroidering the pockets, sewing the various units together, and then assembling the apron.*

## Step 2. Embroider pocket for apron bib

Transfer the Woman Sewing Redwork design and the following free pocket designs to your machine:

letsgosew_PktPart1_8X8.pes - decorative candlewick frame

letsgosew_PktPart2_8X8.pes - pocket seam




FIND YOUR EMBROIDERY DESIGNS AND MANAGE THEM

*"BuzzXplore is another great product from the Buzz Tools line. I love the 3-D rendering of designs. **It is so fast!"***

❖ Penny Muncaster-Jewell
Author and Certified Educator

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Build a combination design like the one below, using the following sewing order:

- Start with letsgosew_ PktPart1_8X8.pes
- Add your choice of built-in lettering to fit inside candlewick frame
- Add the Woman Sewing Redwork design
- End with letsgosew_ PktPart2_8X8.pes. It's important to stitch the pocket seam last.

Move lettering and redwork design as necessary, keeping both pocket designs in the center of the hoop.

Hoop the 12" x 16" interfaced rectangle in the 8" x 8" hoop. Slip a layer of tear-away stabilizer underneath. Embroider the candlewick frame and lettering.

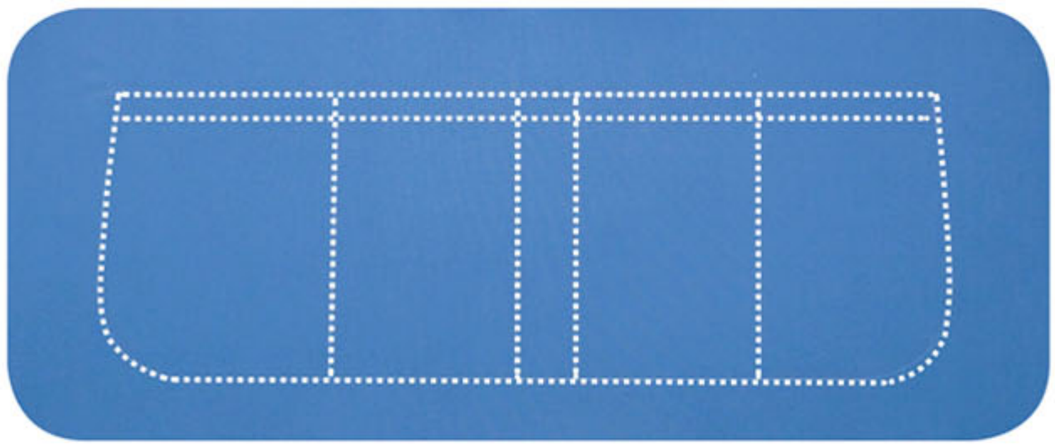
Remove the hoop from the machine. Carefully flip the hoop over. Remove the stabilizer from the area where redwork design will stitch, taking care to avoid distorting the fabric. Remove remaining stabilizer later.

Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the redwork design. Next, layer the 8 ½" square over the embroidery, centering it in the hoop, with right sides together. Tape edges to keep fabric smooth and secure. Stitch pocket seam using thread to closely match fabric.

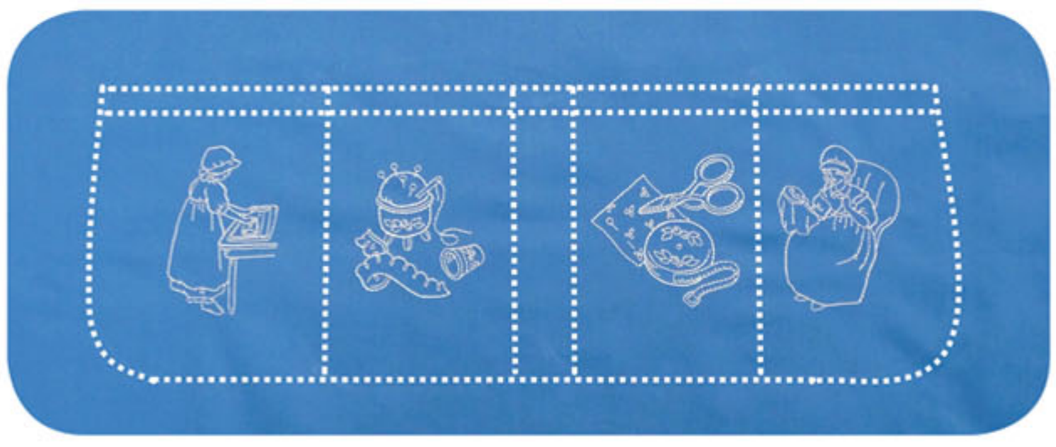
Remove pocket from hoop and gently remove stabilizer. Clip corners and trim seam, leaving ½" at the bottom and ⅛" around all other edges. Set aside.

## Step 3. Embroider lower pocket piece

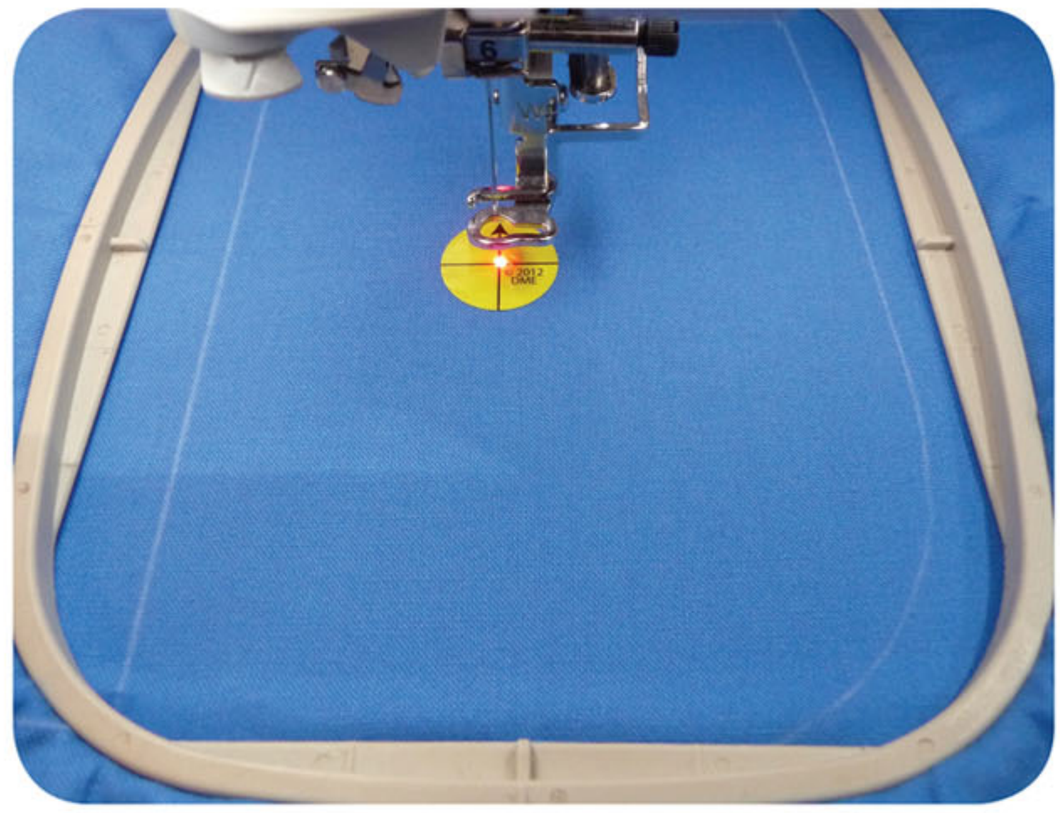
Lightly starch 24" x 10" rectangle and center modified pattern piece M on top. Trace outer pocket cutting line, pocket dividing lines, and the newly created seamline at upper edge.



Choose four redwork designs to fit pocket spaces.



Mark center of each section with a target sticker. Beginning at one edge, hoop each pocket section in the 4" x 4" hoop and embroider one design at a time, centering each design over cross hairs on the marker. Mirror image designs as desired.



Cut out pocket using pattern piece "M" and set aside for later use.

## Step 5. Finish apron

Use the apron pattern instructions, along with the pattern modifications listed at the beginning of these instructions as a basic guide for sewing apron.

***For more detailed instructions on adding decorative elements such as candlewick stitching and rickrack, visit www.dzgns.com. Click on Magazine / Current Issue. Select Volume 104.***

## Embroidery Products

Perfect Embroidery Pro embroidery digitizing software

## Supplies

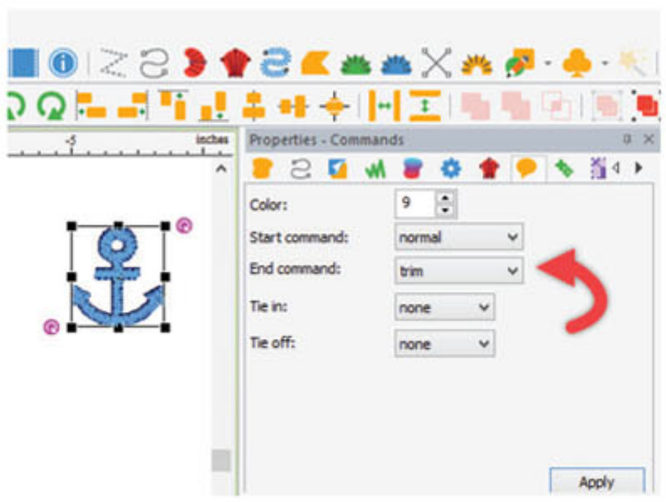
3 heavyweight cloth diapers, prewashed
Assorted ribbon for trim and edge of fabric basket liner
Fabric for appliqué -prewash
Coordinating fabric for basket liner
Soft tear-away stabilizer
Painter's tape
Children's Perfect Placement Kit-burp cloth template
Target stickers

# Nautical Baby Boy Gift Bundle

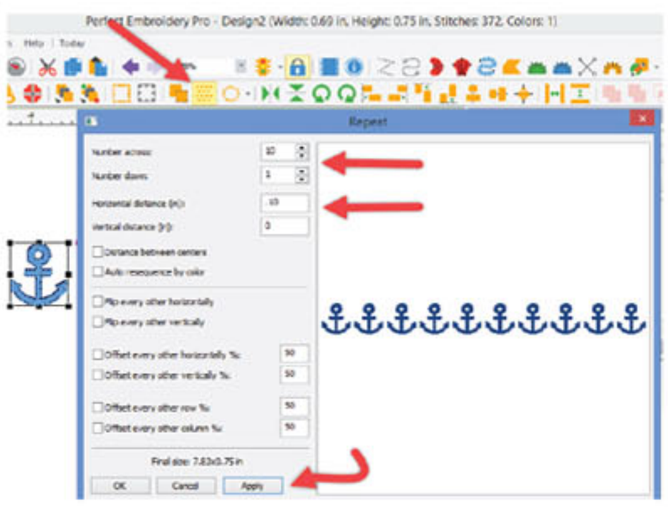
By Marie Zinno

## Step 1. Digitize the Border and Appliqué

Open a new file in Perfect Embroidery Pro and click on the Symbol icon. Select the anchor from the drop down menu and click ok. Select the anchor, click the Commands tab in the Properties Box and add a trim to the End Command field. Click Apply.

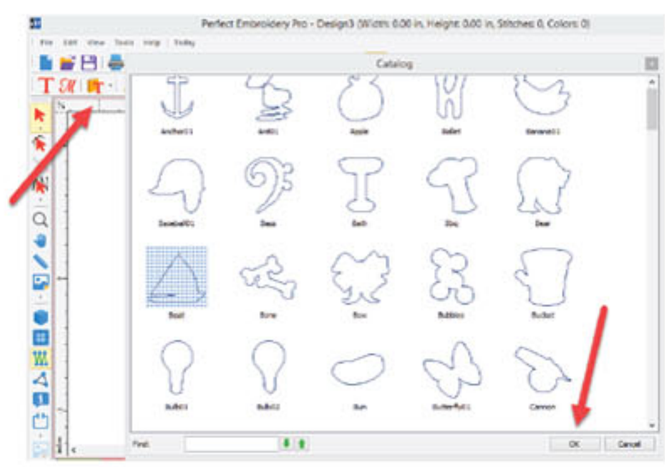



Size the anchor to .75" height for a 1 ½" ribbon. Click on the Repeat icon. Enter 10 in Number across and 1 in Number down. Enter .10 inches in the Horizontal distance field. Click Apply.



Check the width of the design. My design is 7.83" wide. If the burp cloth is wider, copy and paste the anchors to fill the burp cloth. Save the design as Sailboat1.

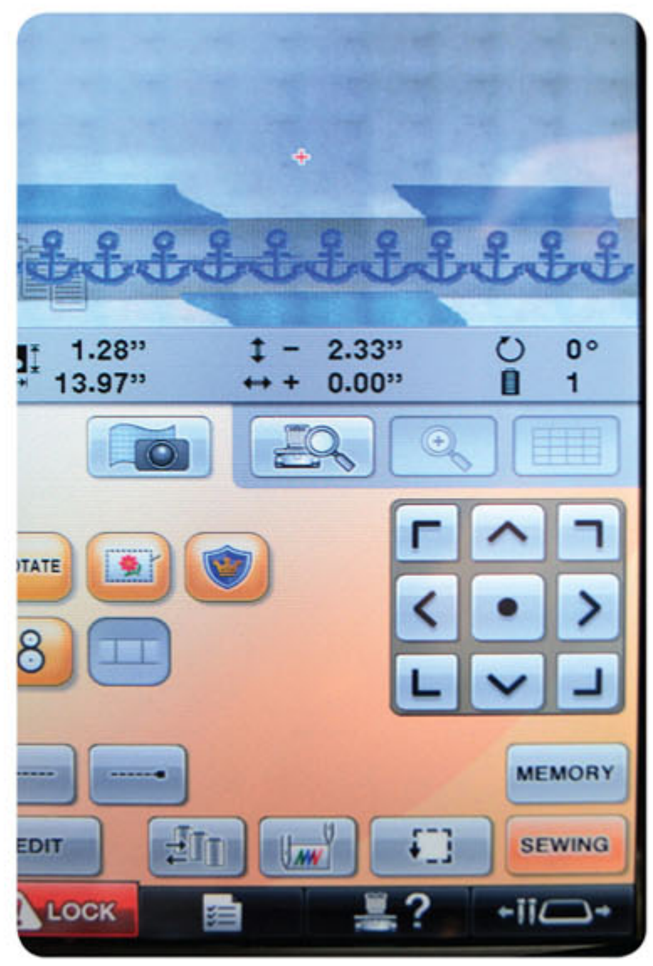
Open a new screen, click on the arrow next to the Text designs icon. Select Appliqué Shapes. Select the boat appliqué. Save the design as Sailboat2. Send Sailboat1 and Sailboat2 to your embroidery machine in the appropriate format.



## Step 2. Embroider the Ribbon

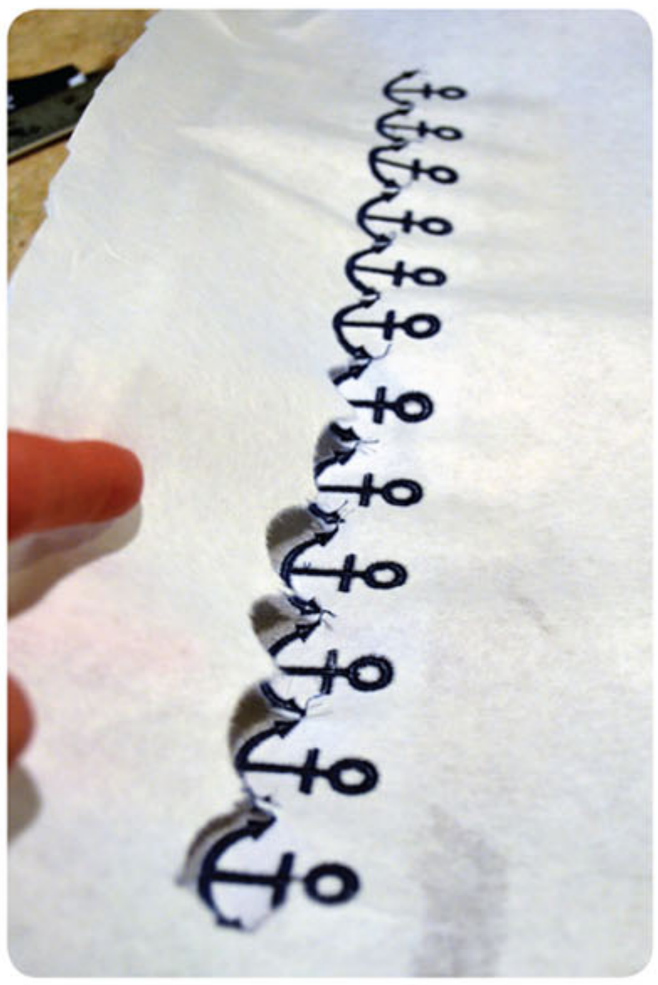
Place the length of ribbon in the large hoop along with the soft tear-away stabilizer. Make sure the ribbon is taut in the hoop. Secure the edges of ribbon with blue painter's tape.

If your machine has a scanning feature, use it now. Touch the scan icon. Center the Sailboat1 design on the ribbon; use the painter's tape as a helpful visual aid. Notice the design image is shown on the touch screen, move the design if needed with the jog keys to perfectly center the embroidery on the ribbon.




In lieu of a scanner, use the machine's trace feature to center the embroidery along the narrow ribbon. Watch the embroidery foot as it travels along the design ensuring that it travels parallel to the ribbon edge. Stitch the design.

Remove the hoop from the machine and carefully tear the stabilizer from the wrong side of the ribbon. Do not pull or tug which can harm the delicate stitches.



Sew the ribbon to the bottom edge of the burp cloth.

## Step 3. Embroider the Appliqué

Place the burp cloth on a flat surface and lay the Perfect Placement Kit Burp Cloth template along the bottom edge of burp cloth. Position the template's bold black line along the top edge of the ribbon. Slide a target sticker in the center hole of the template. Keep the target sticker in place until aligned with needle.

Hoop the burp cloth with the soft tear-away stabilizer in the 4" x 4" hoop. Center the needle over the target sticker and stitch the appliqué design. Remove it from the hoop.

Have fun customizing additional burp cloths with fabric strips and oval appliqués.

# Custom Basket Liner

## Step 1. Make the Liner

Place the basket on the pattern paper; trace the bottom and each side. Add 2" to the height of each basket side to create an "overlap" for the top. Cut out the pattern sections and transfer to fabric, cut one bottom section and four sides.

Label each section with tape or pins. Sew right sides together; start with the bottom and add the side pieces to form the liner.

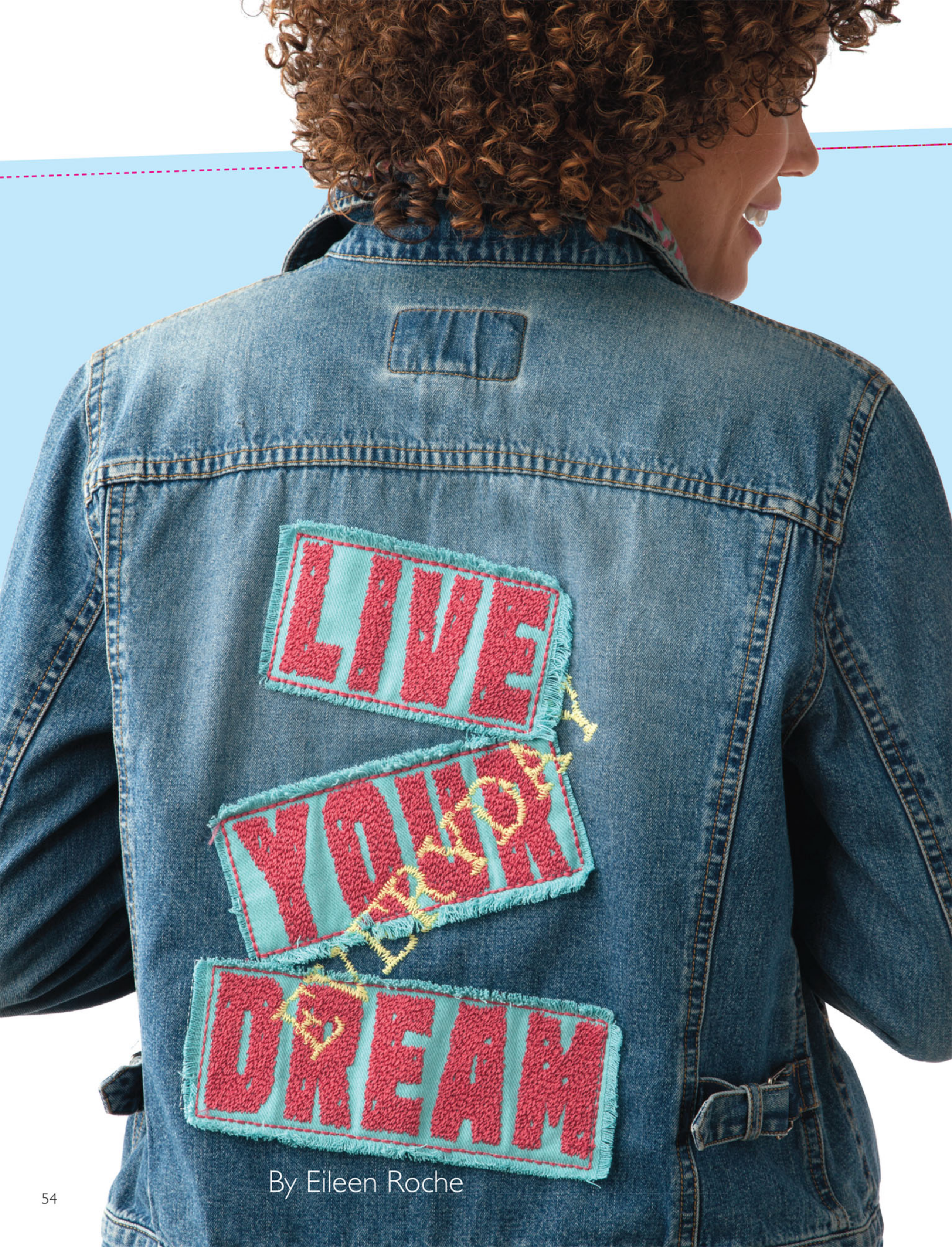
Place the liner inside the basket and fold over the top edge.

## Step 2. Personalize the Ribbon

Measure the circumference of the basket liner at the top. Cut the ribbon the same measurement. Find the center of the ribbon and place a target sticker in that location.

Follow the directions for embroidering the ribbon for the burp cloth. Use the sailboat design located in the symbol motif drop down icon; place the name in the center between the sailboats and save the design sailboat 3. Size the embroidery to fit comfortably on the ribbon. Embroider the design.

Pin the embroidered ribbon to the bottom edge of the fabric liner, centering the motif on the basket front. Sew the ribbon to the liner.




By Eileen Roche

Finally, home embroiderers can duplicate the look of trendy ready-wear in fashions that they want to wear! Vintage Embroidery software features 1500+ designs in two versions; 18 fonts and 22 repair stitches that have been digitized to mimic the look of handwork from yesterday. The strong polyester thread in two weights produces high definition stitches with chunky fills and luscious satins. Wide open stitches mean low-stitch count designs that give big impact in short stitching times. Frayed appliqué adds more dimension and texture to this old school look.

I stitched this jacket back in multiple hoopings due to the overall size of the designs and the constraints of the jacket (sleeves, rivets, yokes, etc.) It was simple to do because placement was not crucial and the layering of the text adds to the wow factor.

## Embroidery Products

Inspirations Vintage Embroidery software

## Supplies

One denim jacket
10" x 16" of cotton twill
Fray Brush
Topstitch needle: size 100/16
**dime** Piece & Stitch wash away tear away stabilizer
Threads: **dime** Rope 15 wt. polyester and Retro 40 wt. polyester

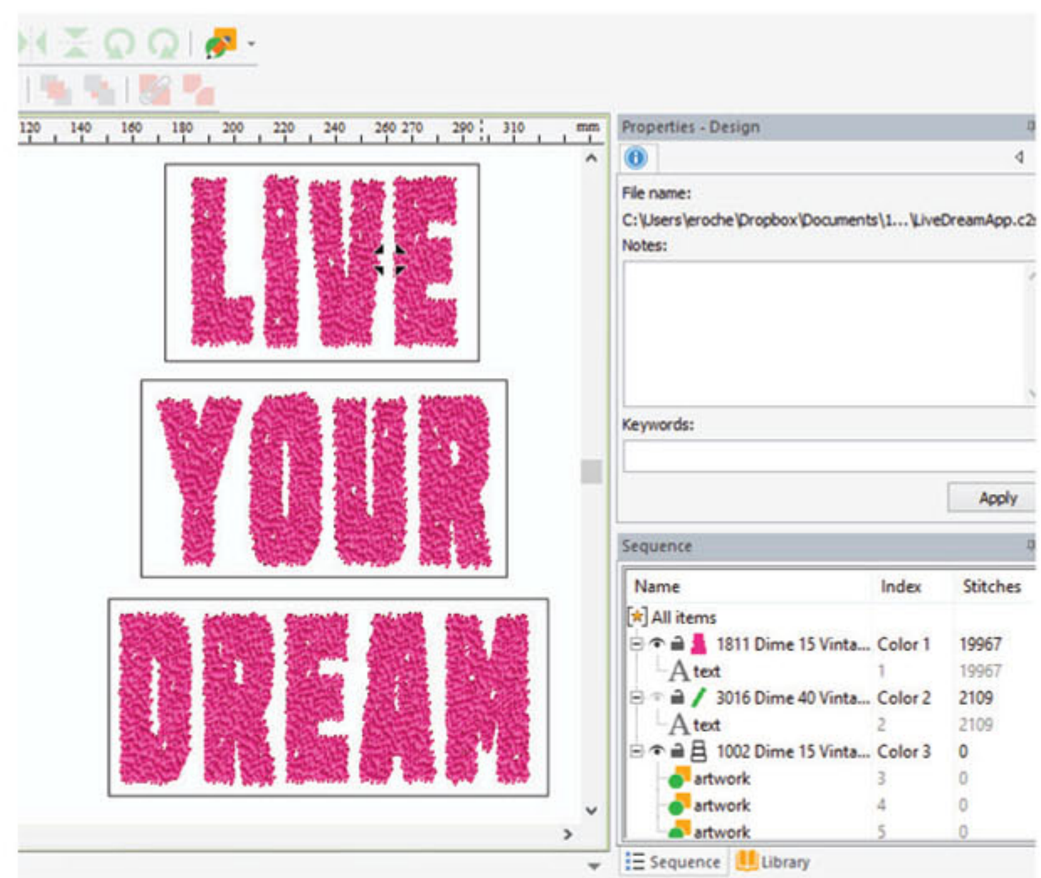
## Step 1. Vintage Embroidery Software

Open a new file in Vintage Embroidery. Click on the Text icon and type LIVE YOUR DREAM on three lines. Select the Damage Vintage font. Size the text to 160mm x 240mm. Save the design as LYD.

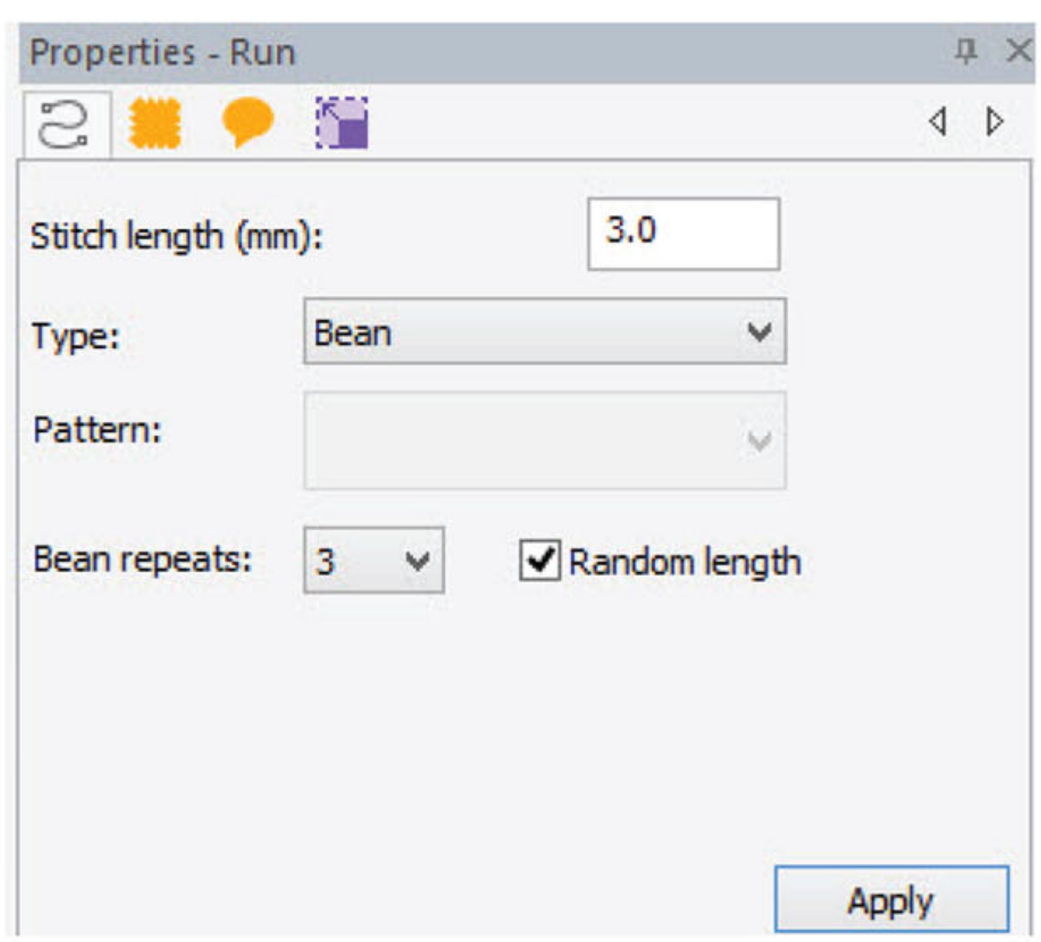
Open a new file. Click on the Text icon and type EVERYDAY in the Properties Box. Select the Cracked Vintage font and size it to 210mm x 35mm.

Rotate the design to splash it across LIVE YOUR DREAM.

In the Color Sequence View, click on the eye next to EVERYDAY to hide it from view. Select the Artwork tool and draw a rectangle around LIVE. Leave a bit of open space between the word and the frame. Copy and paste the rectangle and drag it over YOUR. Widen the rectangle to surround the word. Do not change the height of the rectangle. Repeat this step to add a rectangle around DREAM.



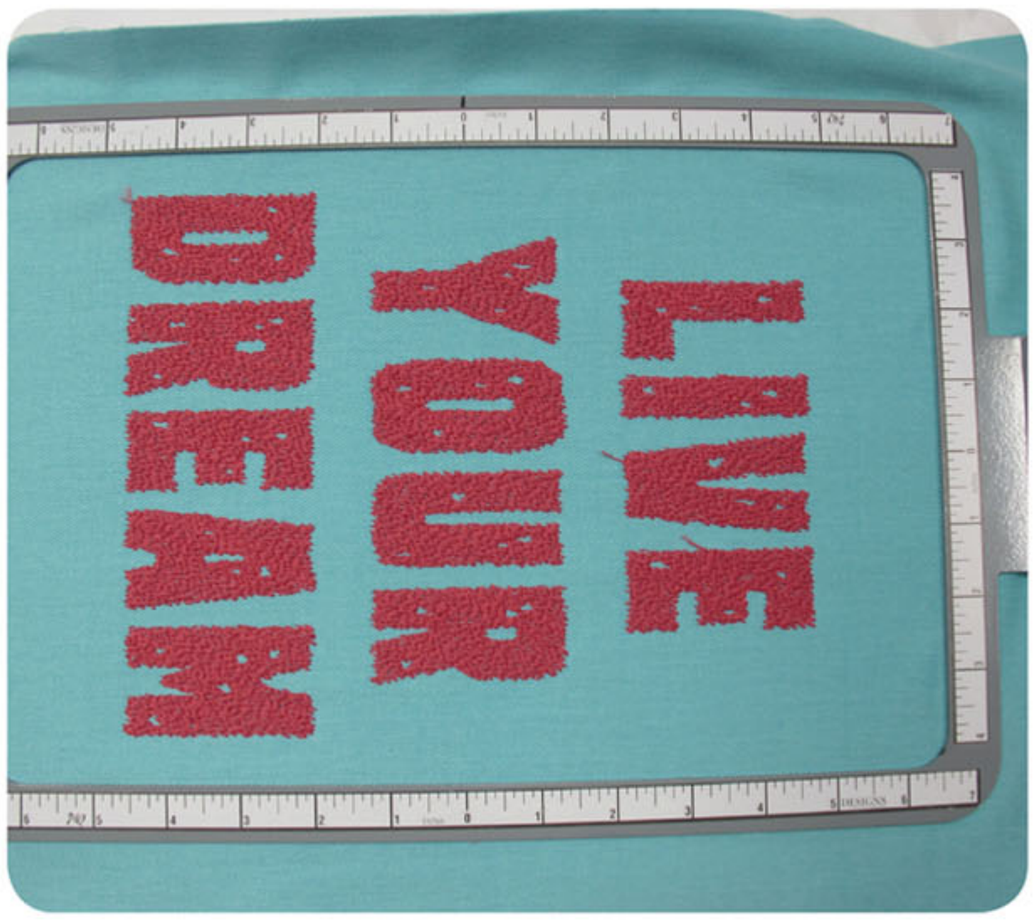

Select the rectangles, right click and Convert to Run, Bean, 3.0 stitch length, Random length. Click Apply.



Right click on the design, and select Show All. Select EVERYDAY, right mouse click and Cut. Open a new file and paste it into the new file. Save it as EVERYDAY. In the original LYD design, select each rectangle and save them individually as LiveFrame, YourFrame and DreamFrame.

## Step 2. Stitch the Text

Hoop the appliqué fabric with Piece & Stitch stabilizer. Insert a Topstitch needle, size 100/16 and stitch the design in Dime Rope 15 wt. polyester thread.

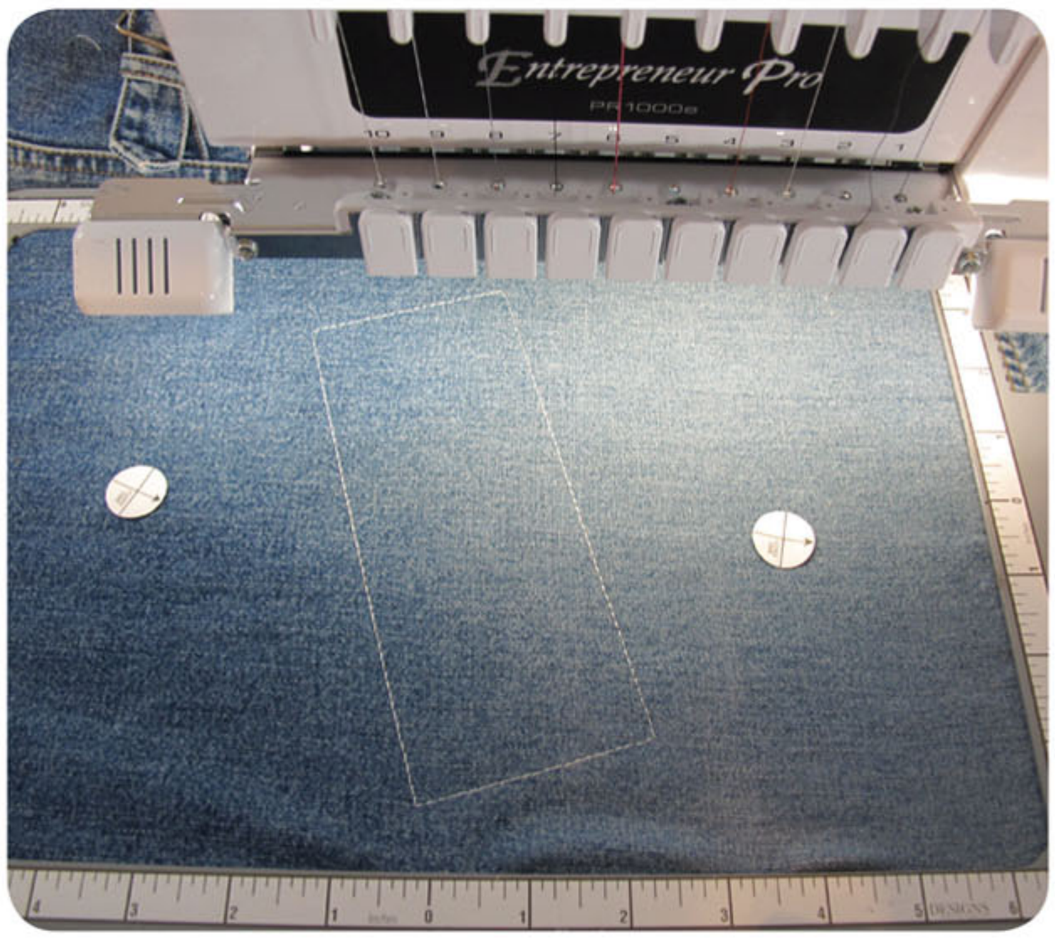



Remove the fabric from the hoop. Tear off the excess stabilizer. Cut the text apart, leaving equal seam allowance around each word. Set aside.

## Step 3. Stitch the Appliqué

Audition the appliqué pieces on the jacket back.

Slide a target sticker under the center of each appliqué and remove the appliqué pieces. Retrieve the YourFrame design. Center the middle target sticker in the hoop. Stitch the placement guide.




Place the appliqué over the outline. Don't fret over this step as the appliqué will eventually be fringed and if it isn't perfectly aligned with the placement guide, no one will ever know. Stitch the tackdown.

Repeat for the other two words.

Fringe the appliqué with the Fray Brush. Hoop the jacket one last time and stitch Everyday across the appliqué.

# Multi-needle Know How

By Marie Zinno

## MULTI-NEEDLE Cap Frame

Cap embroidery is a popular request from family, friends and customers. But many embroiderers, even multi-needle machine owners, like myself, hesitate when a cap order is requested and with good reason. Caps can be tricky to stitch. The surface is round and typically features a seam in the center of the sewing field. In addition, the sewing field is small so professionally-digitized embroidery designs are crucial for success.

The most popular cap styles to embroider are unstructured and structured baseball caps. Unstructured caps have a soft foldable front (you could easily roll the cap if needed). Structured caps are stiff with heavy buckram interfacing and cannot be rolled easily. Structured caps also do not lay flat in a hoop and require a cap frame designed specifically for multi-needle machines.

Single needle machine owners can easily embroider unstructured caps with a Magnetic Hoop Clip, Snap Hoop Monster metal base and adhesive tear-away stabilizer. The unstructured cap is flattened on the sticky stabilizer and the bill is held in place by the clip. It's a good idea to use a basting file around the embroidery design for additional security.

## Unstructured BASEBALL CAP

### Embroidery Products

Tear-away stabilizer 3 oz. (heavy)
Cap frame, driver and jig available through your embroidery machine manufacturer
Target sticker

### Step 1. Prep the Design

Select the embroidery design for the cap and resize it to fit in the cap frame. The maximum height is 2" for my 6-needle embroidery machine.

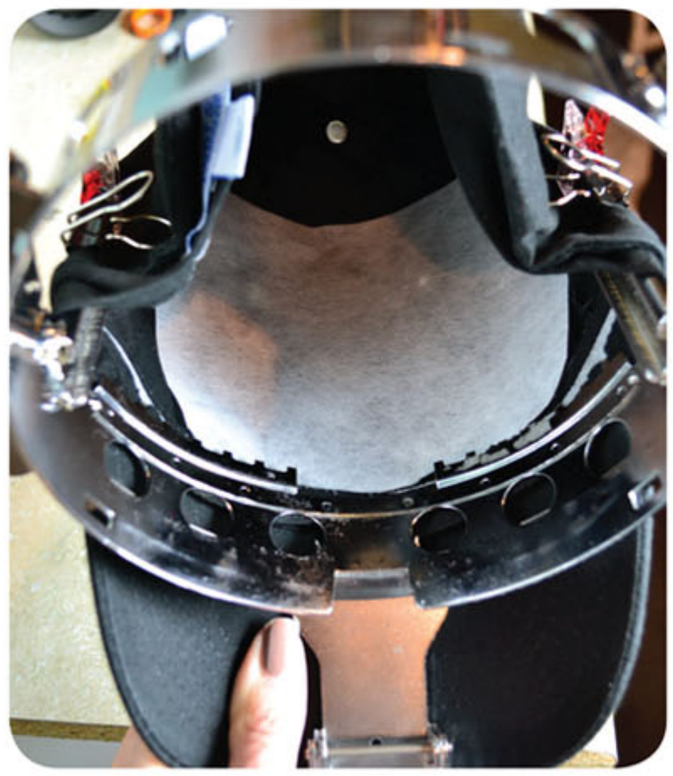
### Step 2. Prep the Cap

Cut a piece of stabilizer to fit the front of the cap.

Insert it in to the front of cap.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for attaching the driver to the machine. Attach the jig to a solid, steady work surface. Attach the frame to the jig.

Slide the cap onto the frame.



Slip the brim through the frame and insert the brim into the brim protector (the upper latch).

Align the cap's center seam with the red vertical line on the brim protector. Firmly pull the excess fabric to each side of the frame and use the provided clips to hold it tight.

## Step 3. Stitch the Design

Remove the frame from the jig and attach it to the driver on the machine.

The embroidery machine will automatically rotate the embroidery design in the correct orientation on the cap. The cap is hooped with the brim towards the back of machine and therefore the design would be upside down when viewed on LED screen.

Align the center seam on cap with the correct needle bar and stitch the design. Remove the hoop and carefully tear the excess stabilizer from inside the cap.

# Structured BASEBALL CAP

## Embroidery Products

1 structured baseball cap

Place the cap on the mounted frame, align the center front seam with the red vertical line on top of the brim protector.

No stabilizer is needed due to the thickness and firmness of the cap. Follow same directions as listed above for the unstructured cap.

# SINGLE NEEDLE MACHINES

## Products

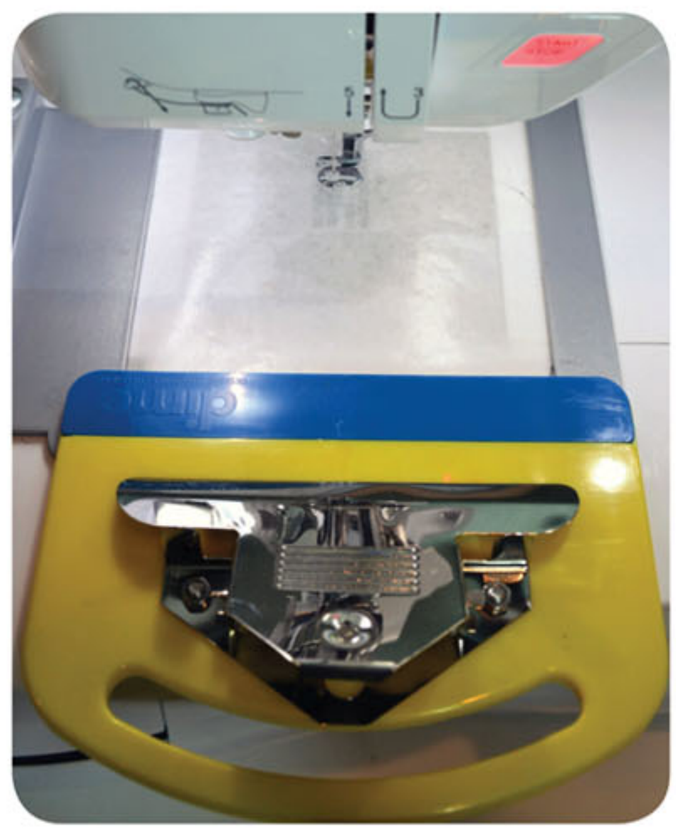
1 unstructured baseball cap
Magnetic Hoop Clip
Snap Hoop Monster 4" x 4"
Adhesive tear-away stabilizer
Target sticker

## Step 1. Prep the Design

In embroidery editing software, select the embroidery design. Size the design to fit the crown of the cap, normally less than 2 ½" in height. Print a template. Center the template on the center seam of the cap with the bottom of the embroidery design as close to the brim as possible. Slide a target sticker under the template and remove the template.

## Step 2. Prep the Hoop

Place adhesive tear-away on the bottom of the Snap Hoop Monster metal frame, sticky side facing up. Attach the Magnetic Hoop Clip on the bottom edge of the metal frame. When placed in this position, there is no chance the embroidery foot will hit the Hoop Clip.



## Step 3. Prep the Cap

Working on a flat surface, pull the facing away from the cap so it is not stitched during the embroidery process.

Use tape to keep it from popping back into position. Slide the brim of the cap underneath the clip. Center the brim on the hoop frame. Flatten the unstructured cap onto the sticky tear-away stabilizer.

## Step 4. Stitch the Design

Slide the frame carefully on to the embroidery machine attachment. Retrieve the embroidery design and check the orientation. Add the basting outline. Position the needle over the target sticker's cross hair. My embroidery machine has a laser light beam which perfectly highlights where the needle will touch down.

Just to be sure the embroidery design will land as planned, use the trace feature. During the trace, keep an eye on the foot as it travels along the bottom of the design. You want to make sure it clears the brim. Remove the target sticker and stitch the basting outline.

Complete the design.

Remove the Snap Hoop Monster frame from machine. Carefully snip the basting stitches from around the embroidery and unclip the cap. Tear excess stabilizer from wrong side of cap.

Somewhere along the line a clever quilter coined the phrase, "when life gives you scraps, make quilts." I think by nature many sewing enthusiasts are frugal folk. We often have trouble discarding scraps and remnants whether they come from past quilting projects or garment construction. They do seem to pile up so I thought you'd appreciate this idea for using up a few scraps that are in your stash.

If you're fond of wearable art, you can put your scraps together for a patchwork jacket. That's exactly what I did to create designer style denim for the front panels of this jacket. Can you ever have too much denim in your wardrobe? I think not. This classic, quintessential fabric is part of our every day life and denim is certainly a favorite fabric to embellish with machine embroidery.

Follow along with me as I give you my basic formula for a scrap happy jacket and then feel free to make it your own, changing it up as desired. This project is all about options! Throughout the instructions you'll find assorted ideas and suggestions. The very nature of scrap happy patchwork means there is room for adaptation and variation!

# SCRAP HAPPY

By Joanne Banko

## Embroidery Products

THE Dream2 Machine - Brother Model XV8550D

Brother embroidery hoops in various sizes

Embroidery threads to contrast with denim and chambray remnants. Choose lighter threads for the dark fabric and darker threads for the lighter fabric.

Embroidery Options: I used the Dream Machine's built-in decorative stitches in the embroidery mode, along with the repeat pattern feature to create my blocks. Check the design menu of your machine for similar design motifs. You'll find multiple machine models with this option. You could also consider using continuous quilt style designs to fill your blocks or other favorite small pattern and border style designs. The trick is to choose designs with a light fill to avoid stiff panels of embroidered fabric.

## Materials and Supplies

Pattern: Serendipity Studio Dakota Duster Jacket #141 from sewserendipity.com. This pattern is ideal as a starting point for a patchwork design. With the military style princess seams it's easy to make divided sections and combine a mix of fabric pieces. My jacket is based on the knee length version, with a mandarin collar and plain back. Read all pattern instructions before you begin, and familiarize yourself with the sizing and general construction techniques. I made several pattern modifications to create special designer details. Read the Pattern Modifications box to learn more.

Main fabric for jacket: Purchase fabric and notions using pattern envelope as a guide, choosing medium weight denim or a similar fabric for main parts of jacket. For modified front you need an additional piece approximately 42" x 8" for the facing. This jacket is not designed for heavy fabric. Disregard interfacing for center front pieces. The backing on each embroidered piece serves as a substitute.

Fabrics for patchwork: Assemble remnants of light to medium weight denim and chambray shirting for five matching sets of pieced patchwork. These instructions include suggested block measurements that work for the range of sizes included with the pattern. Use guidelines in step one for cutting blocks.

Use additional coordinating remnants for embroidered pocket and sleeve trim, contrast collar, covered buttons, and button loops.

To quilt patchwork pieces you need a foundation fabric for each embroidered block. Use a matching piece of thoroughly pre-shrunk muslin or lightweight flannel to layer with each piece.

Regular buttons and buttonholes aren't suitable for these embroidered blocks. I suggest using ⅞" half ball covered button kits to coordinate with bias loops for the closure.

Pattern modifications: AKA "pattern hacks." To eliminate buttonholes on the jacket and create an edge-to-edge center front closure, I trimmed away the customary overlap on the pattern piece, leaving a ½" seam allowance beyond the center front line. I used this same modified piece to cut a facing pattern for the front, sewed the two pieces right sides together and turned the facing to the wrong side. The facing completely covers the front panel on the inside of the jacket and looks especially neat. Ten narrow bias fabric loops were cut to equal 3 ½" long, evenly spaced, and enclosed in the center front seam. Covered buttons match the loops for a unique and non-bulky closure. Pattern includes ideas for contrast trim on the sleeves and pockets. I chose to embroider strips to use for trim. The height of the collar pattern was shortened by ½" and cut on the bias to shape it more closely to the neck.

This narrow collar has no interfacing and is sewn to meet the edge of the modified center front. The same denim fabric is featured for the collar, loops, and covered buttons. It ties the fabric scheme together for a designer style jacket.

## Step 1. Cut and create embroidered blocks for center front

**Option one:** Divide your front pattern piece into even or uneven sections, add seam allowance to each piece, and then use these as a guide for sizing each section of fabric. Remember that your fabric has to fill the whole hoop when embroidering so each piece should be sized accordingly. You could opt to purchase new fabric if you don't have enough coordinating remnants. Use your newly made pattern pieces as a guide when shopping.

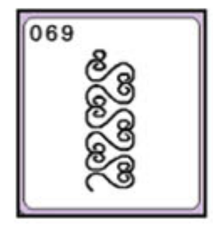
**Option two:** Since I had a pile of decent size scraps I took a more random, casual approach. To start, I made sure I had enough of each fabric to make a set of matching embroidered blocks for the right and left front. Using the center front pattern piece as a general guide I made blocks large enough to piece together and form an oversized strip, then cut it to size using the modified front pattern piece. Individual block sizes are listed below.

To create blocks begin by touching Embroidery and select category 5, menu No.01.

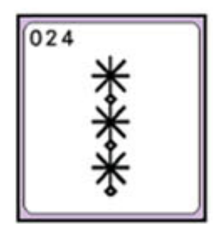



General guidelines for creating blocks: Choose a decorative stitch from the menu. Select symmetrical designs so each set of identical blocks look even from top to bottom and side-to-side. Remember to select a design that is light and airy so your embroidered block is not too stiff. Follow the examples presented here to create your blocks but feel free to experiment with other motifs.

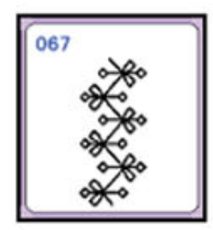
These are the specific stitches I used for my jacket, along with the fabric piece and hoop size used to stitch each one.



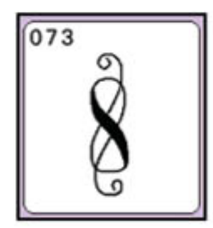

Block #1: Dark denim 18" x 14" wide for embroidering in 9.5" x 9.5" hoop.



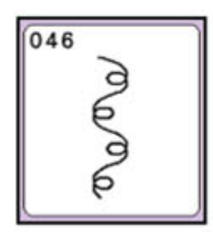

Block #2: Light blue chambray 12" x 9" wide for embroidering in 5" x 7" hoop.




Block #3: Medium blue denim 16" x 13" wide for embroidering in 8" x 8" hoop.




Block #4: Medium blue chambray 12" x 9" wide for embroidering in 5" x 7" hoop.

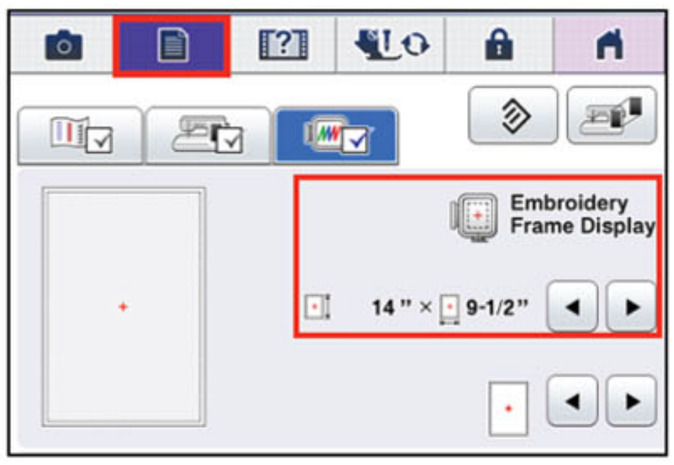



Block #5: Medium blue denim 24" x 15" wide for embroidering in 9.5" x 14" hoop.

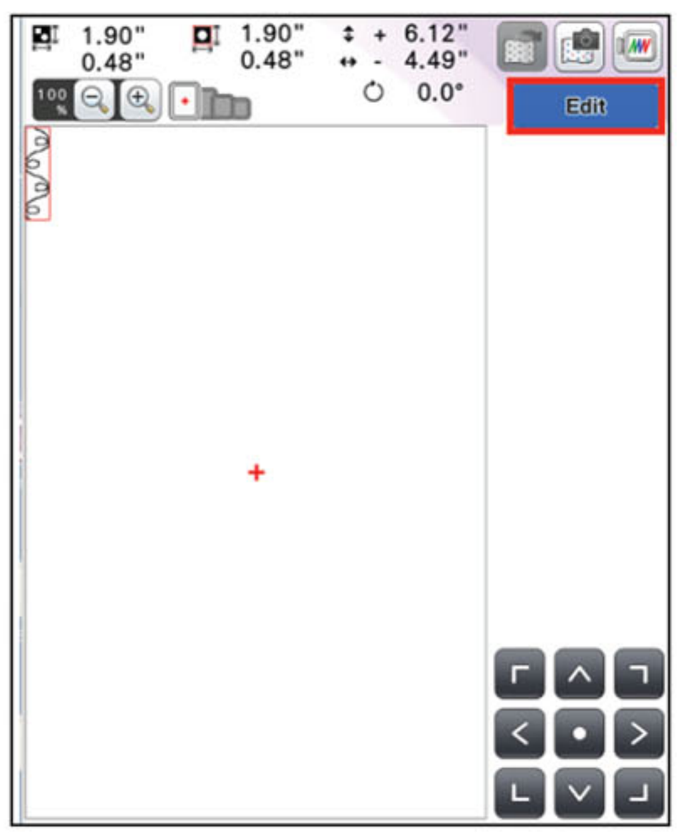
## *Joanne's Tip*

*Why so many hoops sizes you ask? To begin with I'm a girl who believes you can never have too many hoops! I literally had a pile of scraps when I started so I chose my hoop sizes based on the "chunks" of fabric I had to work with. You can work your own plan depending on the blocks you make with fabrics and hoops of your own choosing.*

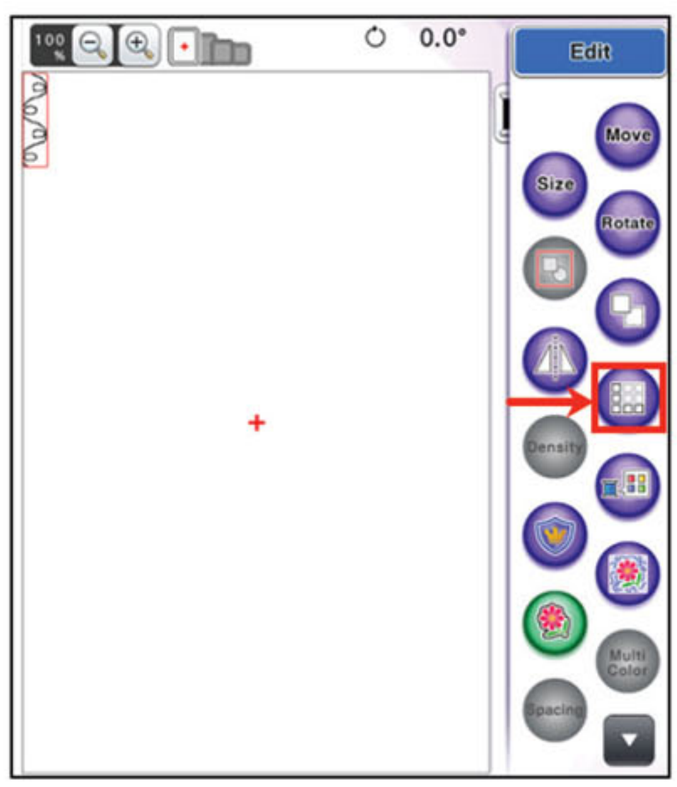
Make each block using the same basic steps shown here. This example below shows how to make block #5, using motif No.046 for the section at the hem. This is the largest section I used for the jacket, hooping the fabric for the 9.5" x 14" hoop. To fill each block with the right amount of motifs take advantage of the ability to set your specific hoop size in the set mode of the machine. You'll have a visual guide showing the hoop boundary on the screen.

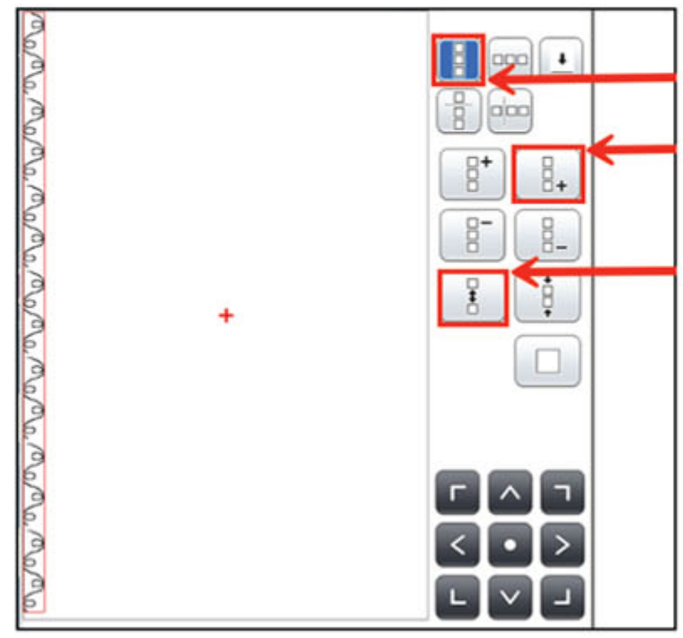



To begin building the block select motif and touch Set. Move selected design to upper left hand corner of the screen to build design from top to bottom and then side to side.



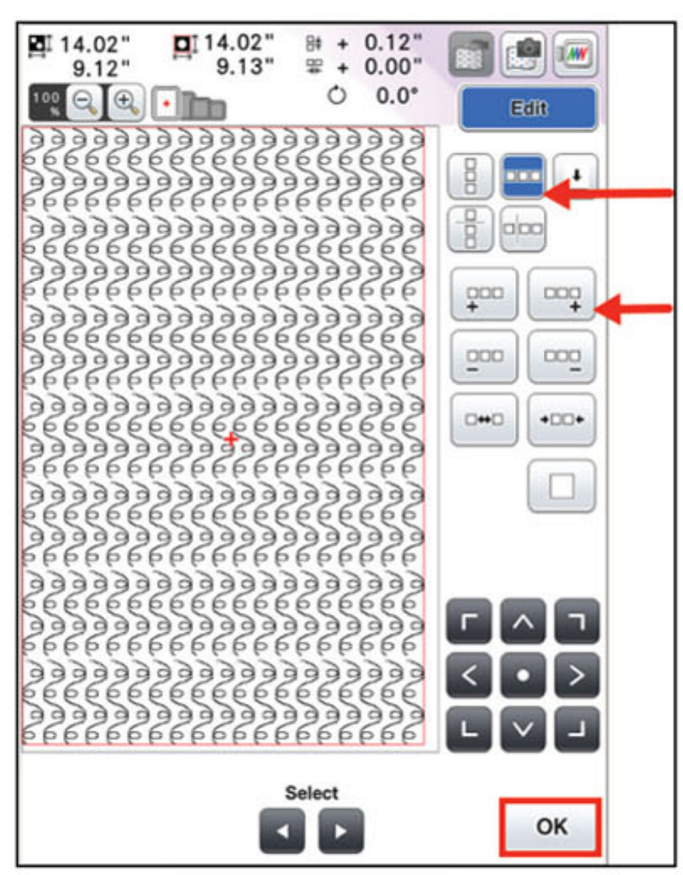

Touch Edit, and then select the border key to use creative tools included in this menu of options.



Use vertical design key and then add motifs using the plus key to form a row from top to bottom.

You can use the spacer key to stretch the row and make it longer.




Fill the block by touching the horizontal design key and then use the plus key to add motifs for a row from side to side.

Touch OK.

To embroider each block, layer fabric with flannel for shirt weight fabrics, or muslin for light to medium weight denim.

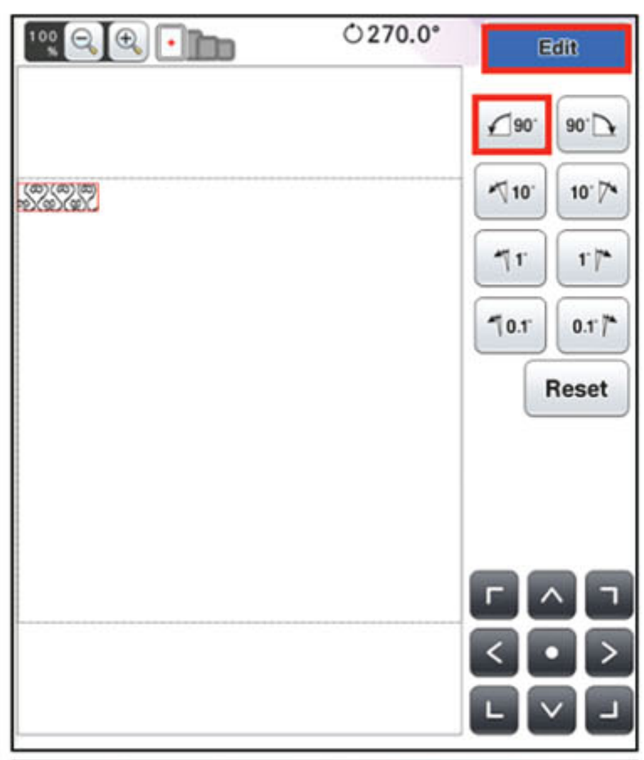
## Joanne's Tip

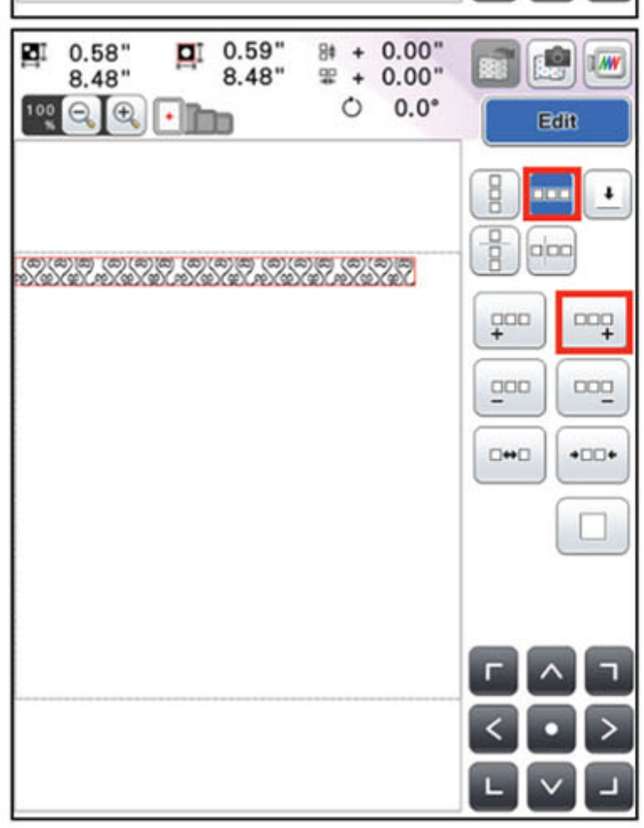
*I like using flannel in place of batting for "quilted" garments. Muslin works too in this case and is good for fabric that is a little heavier to start with.*

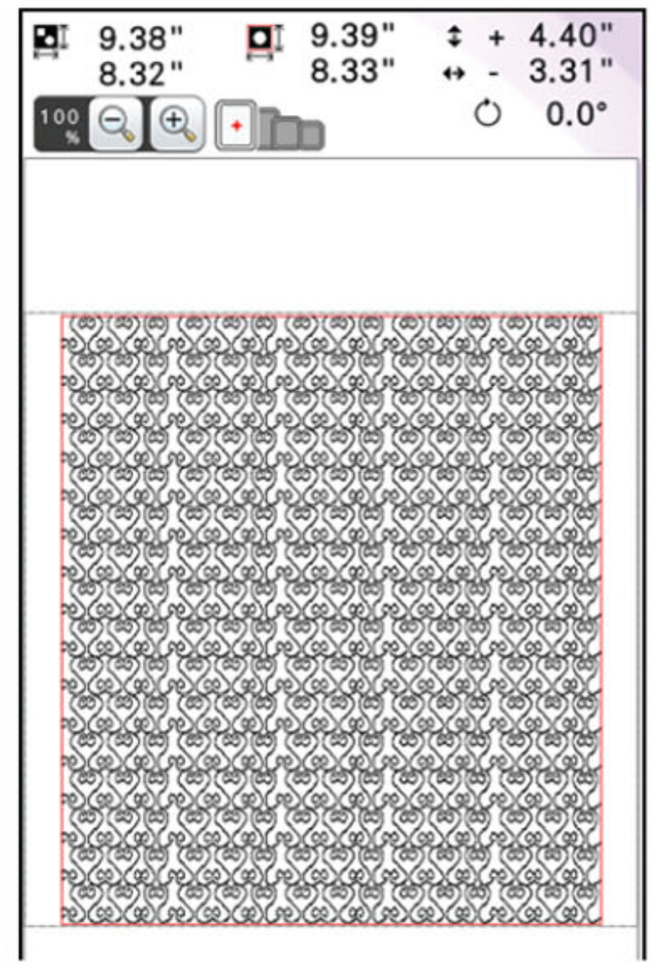
Technically speaking I guess these blocks can be considered an "open face" sandwich, as we are not using a backing, just a top and a middle piece.

Try this idea for an "open face" or complete quilt sandwich. It works well when you don't want or need the extra fluff from batting.

Design and embroider enough blocks to cover center front pattern pieces. Depending on your selected motif and your chosen hoop, you may want to rotate the motif first and create your block using a crosswise layout.




When each block is finished you can do some trimming but be careful you don't remove too much before you make sure you have enough for your entire pattern piece.

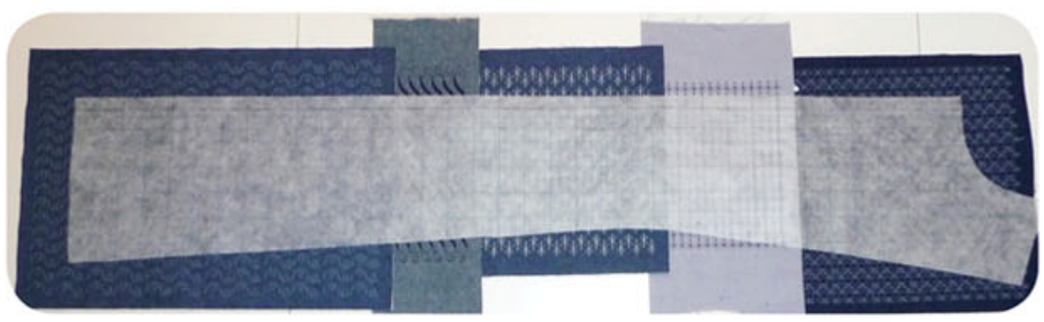
## Joanne's Tip

*Remember, you need a matching, identical set for each block. It's likely you'll make changes as you design the initial block so remember to store each newly created block into the machine's memory before you stitch. If your stitching time is interrupted you can retrieve it and continue with confidence.*

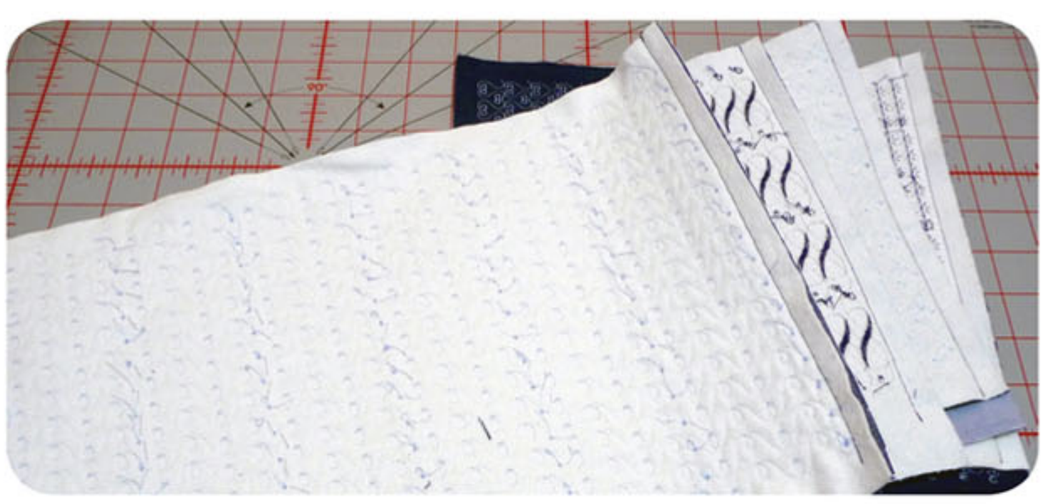
## Step 2. Sew blocks for center front

At this point you are ready to change machine to sewing and sew blocks together.

I recommend overlapping the pieces to estimate the finished size after stitching seams. Do a trial layout to make sure the pieces are aligned so that the pattern covers them completely. I traced my center front pattern onto transparent pattern cloth to help with this step.



Shift the blocks of fabric as needed to see where they fit best and then sew together into a strip. I sewed mine using a ½" seam allowance and aligned my pieces so the beginning of the decorative stitching falls along the center front seamline.



Repeat the process to create an identical strip. Use center front pattern pieces to cut a perfect match for right and left front.

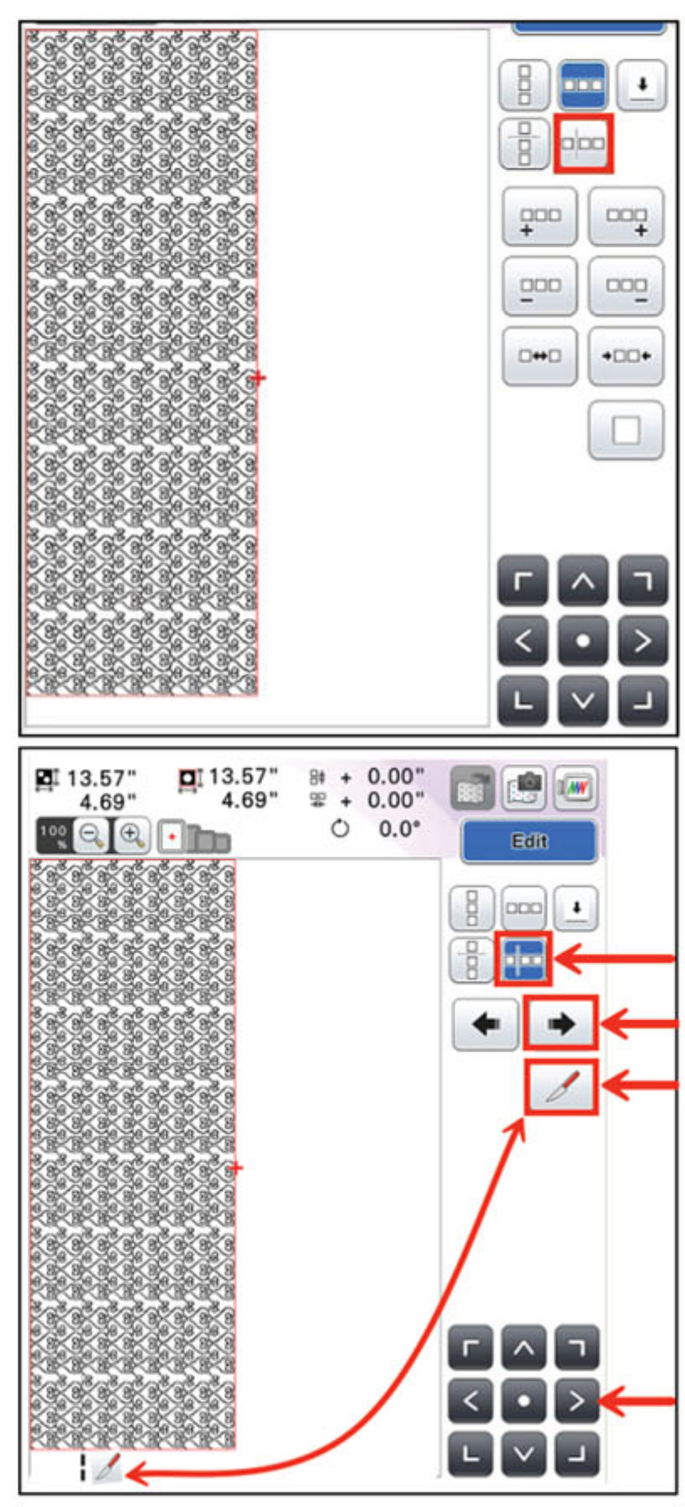
## Step 3. Cut remaining pattern pieces

Decide what pattern modification suits you and cut the necessary pieces to construct the jacket.

## Step 4. Create embroidered trim using a few additional tools in this menu

Hoop a piece of dark denim using the 9.5" x 14" hoop. Use this piece to make four oversized trim strips to sew to the sleeve and pocket edges. You won't need stabilizer or backing for the denim.

Begin by selecting motif No. 069. Use the vertical design key as you did before to fill the length of the hoop. Use the horizontal key to create a block with eight rows of hearts from side to side. Follow remaining steps to cut the block into four separated blocks.

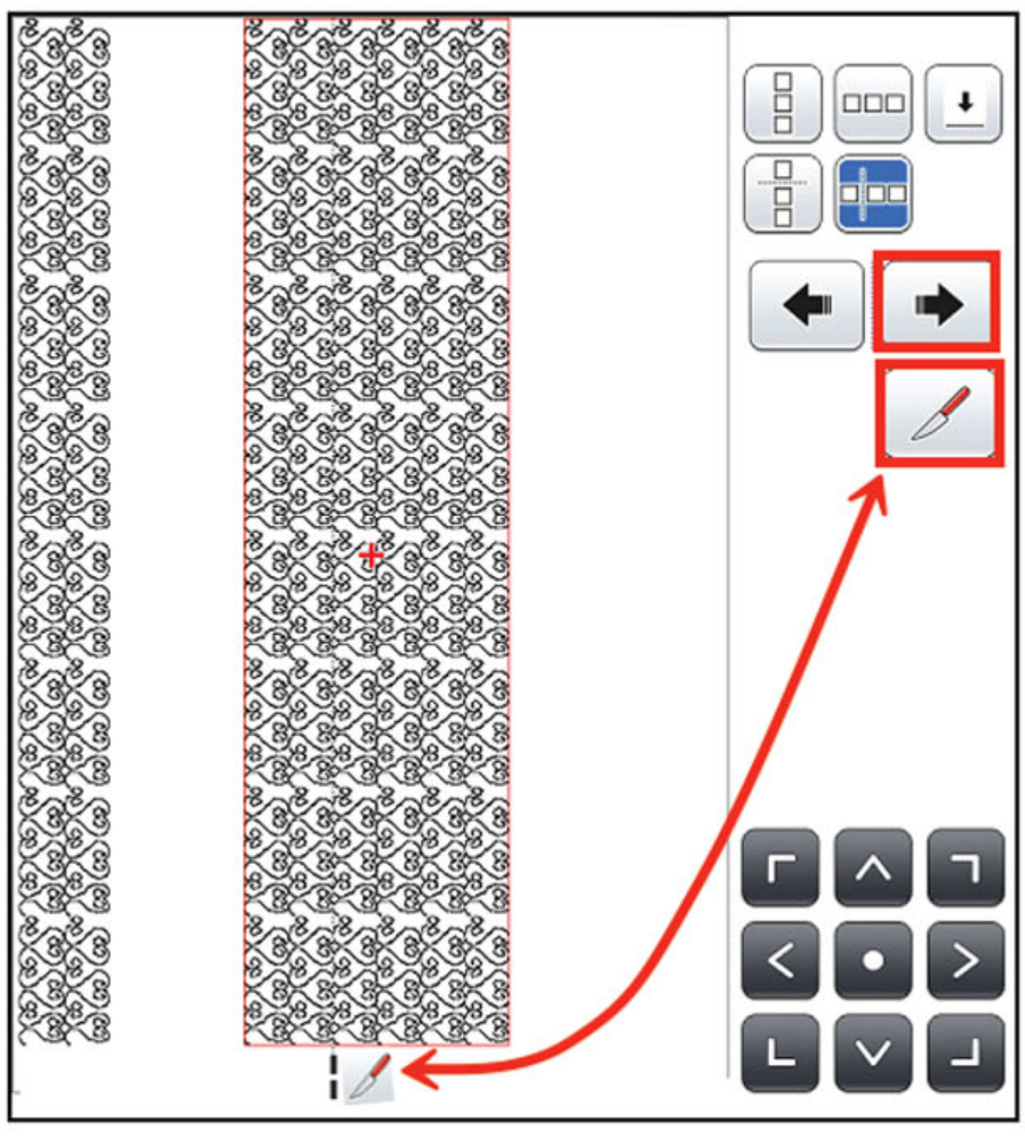


Touch the vertical cut key. A small knife image and a dashed line appear at the bottom where the cut forms.

Touch arrow to move the knife over one row.

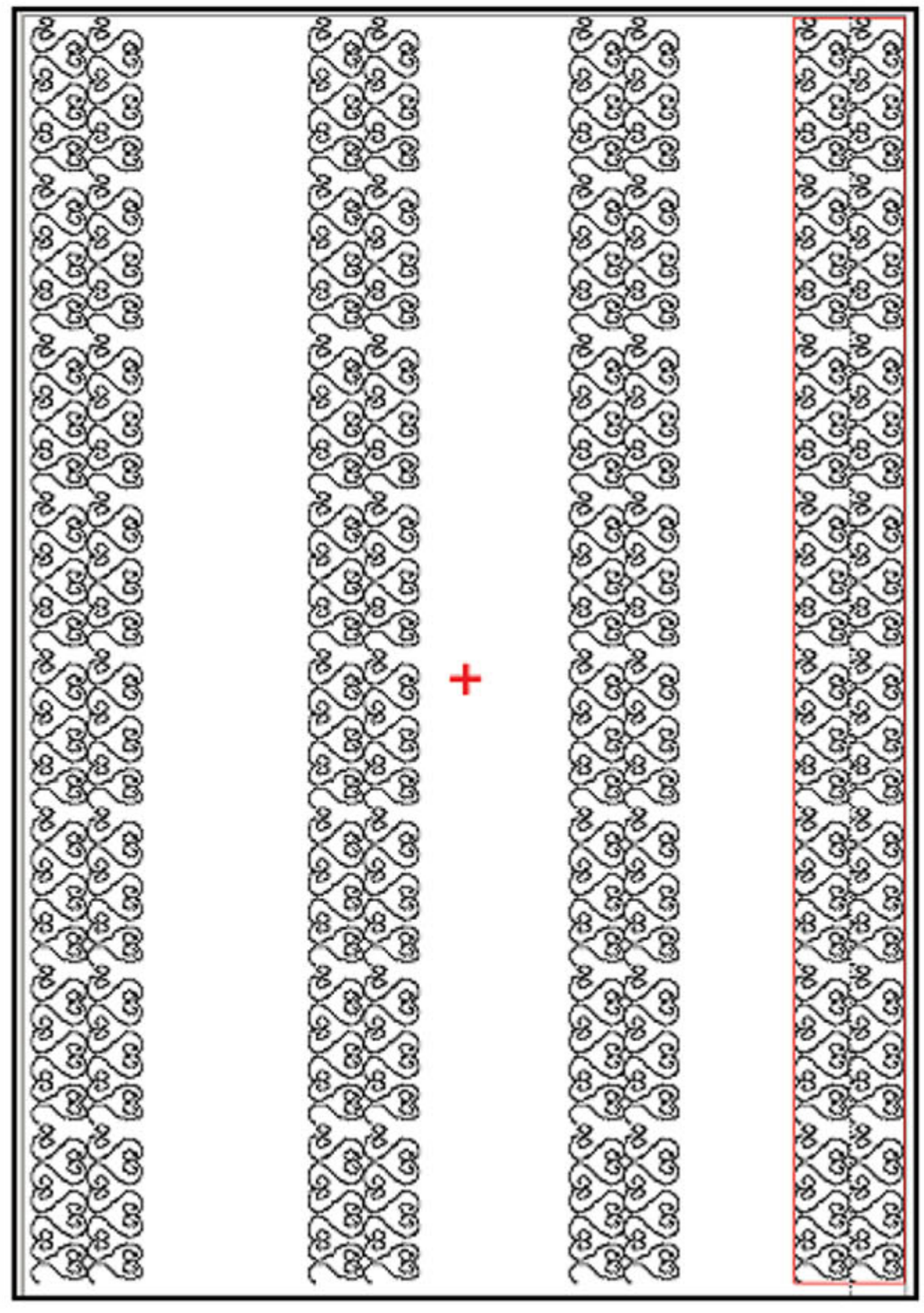
Touch the matching knife key to cut block into a row of two hearts.

Use directional arrow to move separated row to the right.



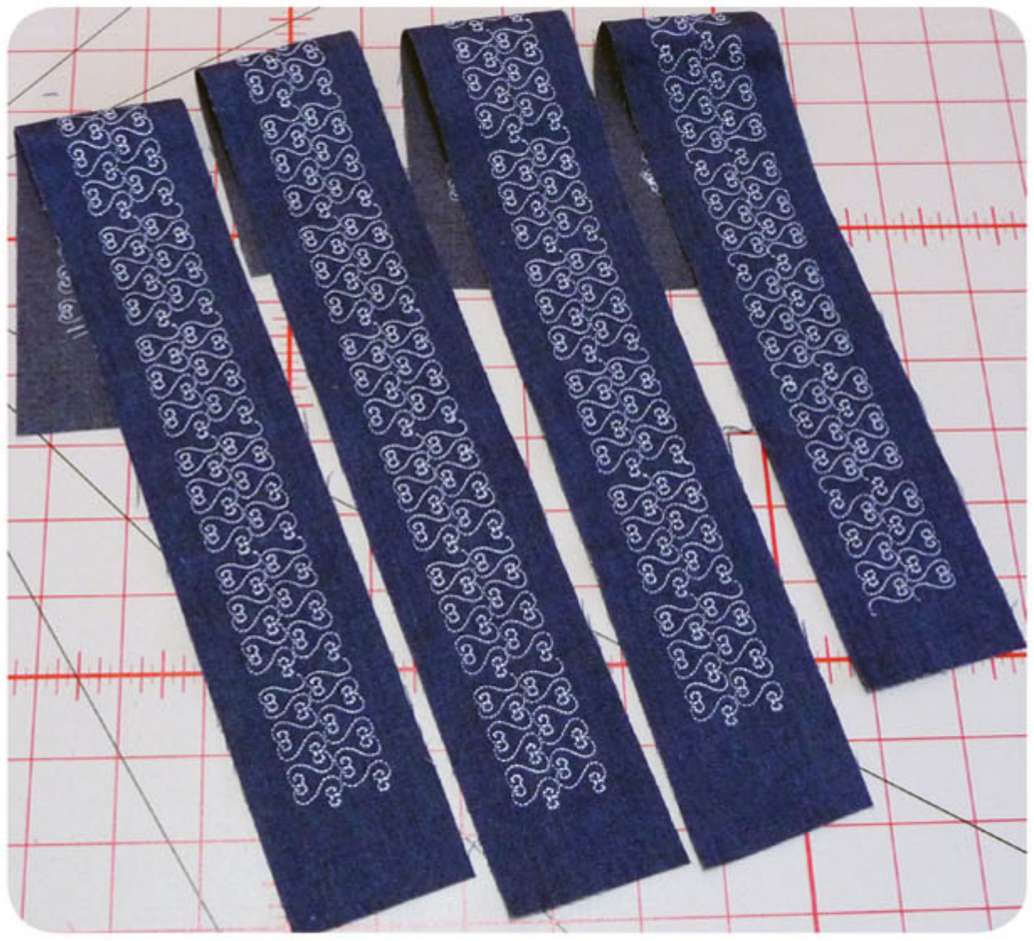
Use the Arrow key to move knife to the next row.

Once again, touch the matching knife key to cut block into a row of two hearts.



Use directional arrow to move block to the right as you did before and then keep repeating the steps until you have four separate rows with space in between for seam allowance.

Embroider and then cut rows into even strips with seam allowance along each edge. You will have excess for each strip.



## Step 5. Finish garment construction

Use the pattern instructions along with my "pattern hacks" tips to complete the jacket. Enjoy!

### *Joanne's Tip*

*Creating repeat border patterns opens the door to a lot of embroidery design opportunities. I invite you to visit my website www.letsgosew.com for even more ideas for using this fun embroidery technique. You'll also find a tip sheet for creating covered buttons plus additional sewing tips for constructing this jacket.*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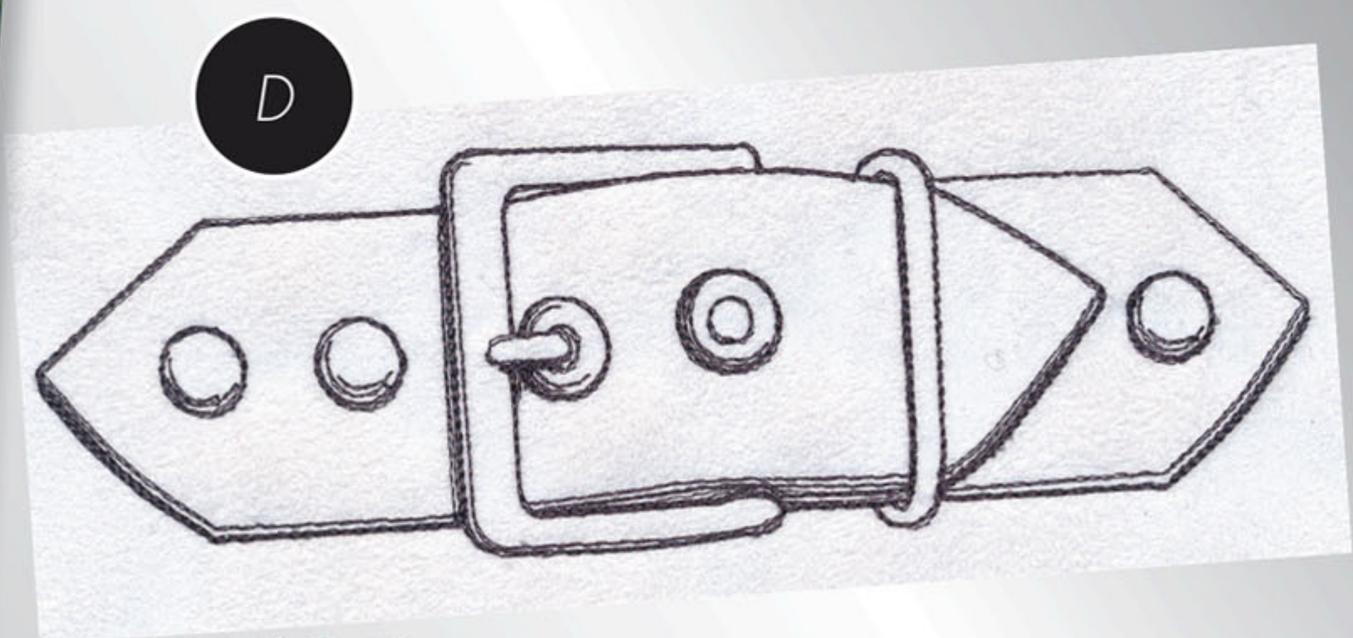
By Karline Koehler

## Beautiful Illusion

B

UT14399 Pocket Monsters – Bunny



D

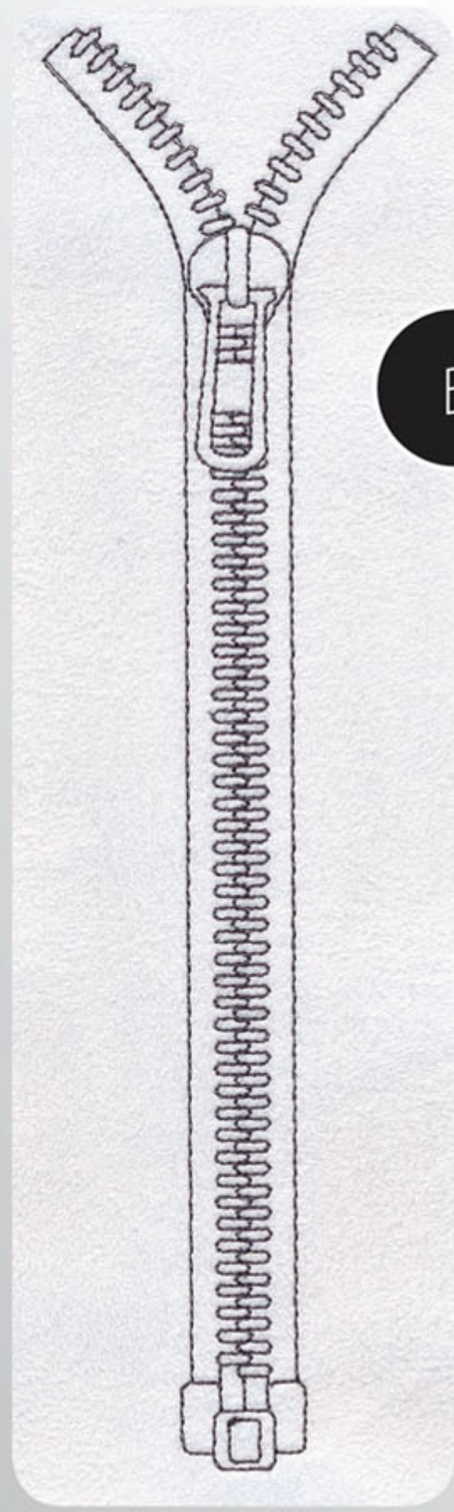
UT8032 Buckle Down

C

UT5552 Enchanted Lock

A

UT8516 Intrepid Journey – Hour by Hour

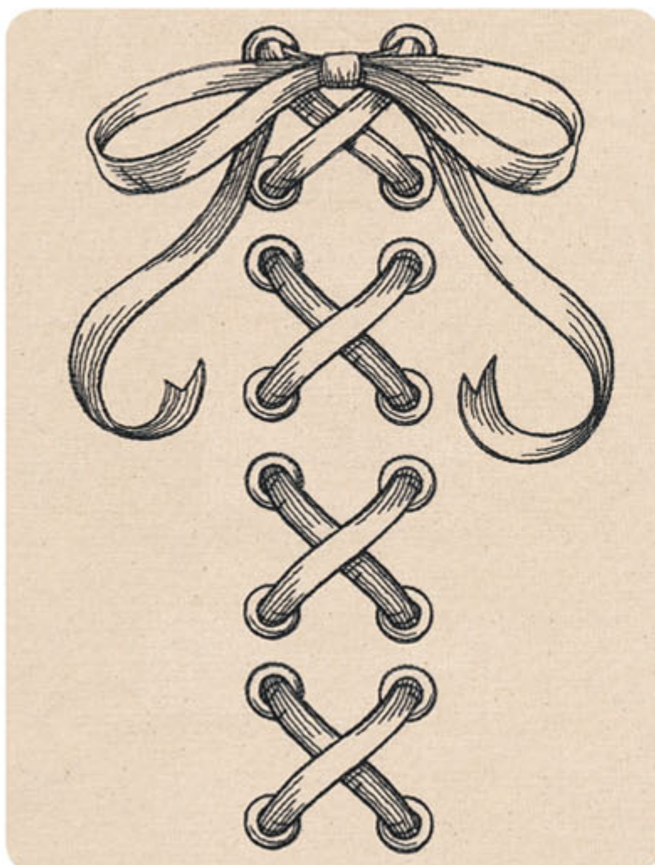


E

UT9053 Zip It

Embroidery is always a great way to catch some attention – but these unique designs will really make your friends do a double take! Trompe l'oeil is French for "deceives the eye," and this unique embroidery is just the thing to create the most delightful trickery on clothing, bags and home décor. Mimicking the look of hardware and other details, these designs are a trendy way to dress up your eye-catching projects.

This Lace It Up design evokes the look of corset lacing, with light-stitching details to create visual dimension. Each section stitches separately, so you can repeat the X as many times as you like to extend the design all the way down the length of your creations.



UTZ1601 Lace It Up

Three closely related thread colors bring depth to this ornate Gothic Hinge design. Stitch two or more hinges along the edge of pillows, purses, tote bags, and journal covers to beautifully blur the line between form and function.

UT9782 Gothic Hinge

**A** Craft a timeless look with this Hour by Hour clock hand. Combine it with embroidery designs depicting other clock parts and gears, to bring a bit of romantic Victorian flair to garments and décor alike.

**B** Stitch this adorable bunny or other Pocket Monsters on a shirt, and carry around an adorable buddy wherever you go. This popular design pack also includes a puppy, kitten, monkey, dinosaur, unicorn, dragon, and monster. They look cute on tote bags, too!

**C** Swirling, sculptural details make this Enchanted Lock design shine. You can enhance the real-keyhole look by choosing thread colors similar to your background fabric, so it all blends together. Amazing on bags, pillows, jackets, and more (and there's a matching key, too!).

**D** Pull your style together with this Buckle Down design. Drawn with a subtle but convincing 3D look, it'll be picture-perfect on shirts and jackets, purses and bags, and throw pillows.

**E** Zip It with this light-stitching, detailed zipper design. Available in three different lengths, it'll add the element of surprise anywhere you might expect to see a real zipper.

Search Urban Threads for "trompe l'oeil" to find even more of these beautiful illusions: bows, buttons, dials, ribbons, needles and thread. They're sure to inspire lots of creative new projects—and they'll impress and delight wherever you display them!

*Karline Koehler is a lifelong seamstress and one of the creative minds behind Urban Threads, where fresh art meets cutting-edge embroidery innovation. See these designs and more at www.urbanthreads.com.*

*Designs featured are from www.urbanthreads.com*

# Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman

*Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.*

# Abracadabra

*"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."*
- Arthur C. Clark

Digitizing software is magical and amazes me. The ability to analyze a graphic image or photograph and convert that image to a sequential stitch-file seems like magic.

When it comes to embroidery, it's still a Windows world. Embroidery software is expensive to produce and written for a global market. As *Apple* adopters increase in quantity, more options will become available. While *Apple* has a sizable part of the U.S. market, globally it barely makes a peep. The consolation for Mac owners is the low-cost availability of "good-enough" PC computers that can be dedicated for embroidery use.

Entry-level embroiderers will often start with a lettering, editing or sizing module; then, add more programs as their skills and budget increase. This can be an expensive option. Modules do not always work and play well with others. Brand idiosyncrasies, with their varying interfaces, can make for a very confusing experience. Digitizing suites are efficient and contain important functionality in one program, with a consistent user interface.

When comparing embroidery software, you will find more commonalities than differences. Manual punching, Auto-punch (digitizing), lettering, sizing, combining, and arraying are features that most programs have in common. Some come bundled with graphic software, like CorelDraw, that can help fix problematic artwork. User interfaces vary. Many powerful programs still use functional, but older looking interfaces. Other programs sport a more modern interface.

While software may seem expensive to the hobbyist, professional digitizers might invest $10,000 or more in their toolbox of graphic and digitizing, and utility programs.

## Here is a break-down of what is available.

### Solve a problem.

Utility programs include sizing, lettering, small lettering, combining, viewing, organizing, positioning, transferring, and density adjusting. These programs usually offer more than one problem-solving function in a moderately-priced program.

### Let's make stuff.

Programs that create, would include auto-punch, photo-stitch, quilt functions, word-art, and appliqué functions that can output the shape to your favorite digital cutter. Side note: The term auto-punch calls back to the days when paper punch-tape was the medium of choice for controlling commercial embroidery machines.

### If only my design looked like this...

Editing programs add basic utility functions, with the ability to modify your designs. You can copy, paste, or remove design elements. You can array elements along a path or geometric shape. Adding or removing color stops can change an existing design in dramatic ways. Some programs in this category offer basic digitizing or auto-punch capabilities.

## I want it all.

*Great Scott!* is a suite guy, (pun intended). Embroidery suites have all of the important functions in one program. While each brand offers unique functions, they share many features in common. You can expect manual or auto-digitizing, design editing, lettering with proven built-in fonts or TrueType font conversion, sizing, multi-hooping, combining, arraying, photo stitch, shapes, monograms, format import/export, viewing, splitting, and more.

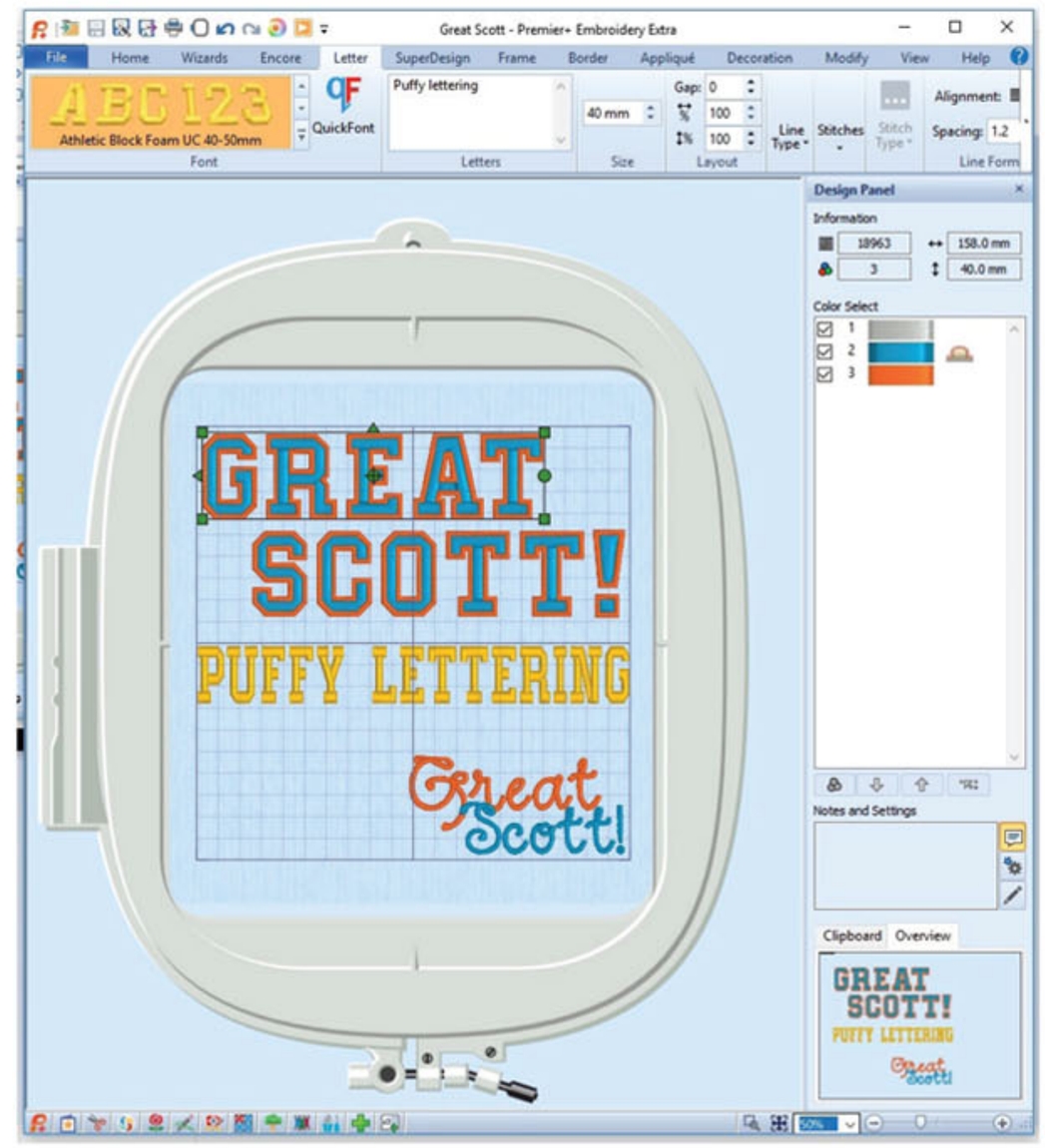
Some offer puffy lettering, fill customization, motif stitch customization, name drop, and multi-media, combining embroidery with printed images. Some can create knockdown stitches for fluffy or napped fabrics, and direct cutwork needles to make holes, adding elegance and interest to your projects.

Mac programs include *TruEmbroidery3*, and **Brother** *MacBroidery Embroidery Lettering Software*. **Baby Lock** *EmbroideryWorks Everyday* and *Advanced* are the hermaphrodites of the embroidery world, operating on both PC and Mac OS. Coming soon, **BERNINA** *Toolbox*, available in four modules: *Editing, Lettering Basic, Lettering* and *Monogram*, or purchase *Bundle* and have it all. Toolbox modules will run on PC and Mac. An added bonus— access to **BERNINA** *Cloud*.

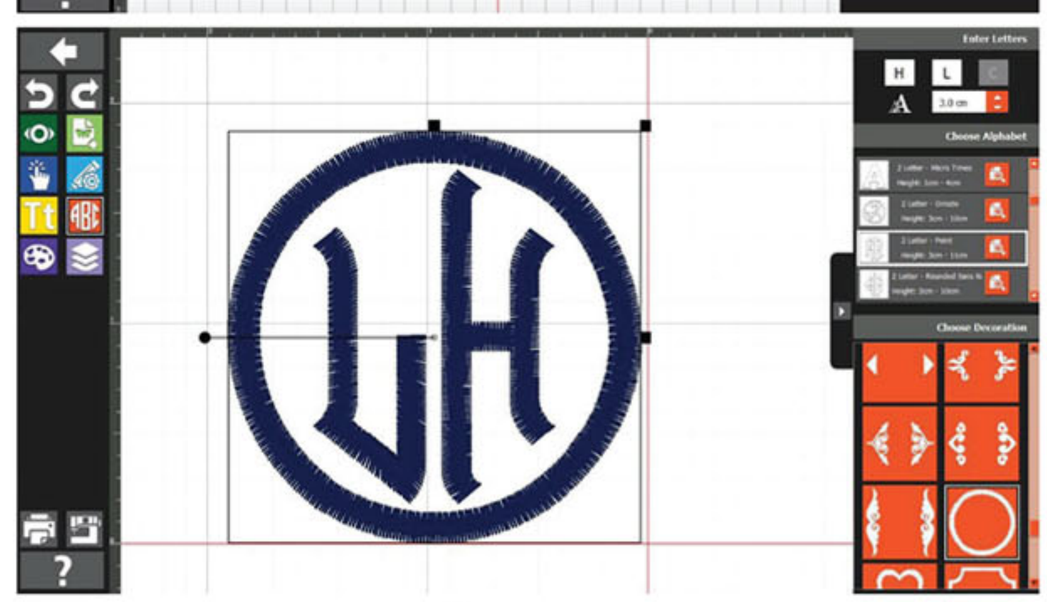
Speaking of the "cloud", more companies are offering cloud solutions for design storage.\, including **Baby Lock** *EmbroideryWorks everyday, Airstitch Edition* and **Brother** *BES Lettering 4 Dream Edition*.

Coming soon…watch for **Inspired by Dime** *Vintage Embroidery Software*. This novel program allows you to sew with "rope"! *Vintage Embroidery Software* is a new program that lets you create and sew out embroidery designs with heavy15 weight thread for a chunky, hand-embroidered look.

Looking to the not-so-immediate future? Watch for virtualization. This means that the software does not reside on your computer, but on a cloud computer. You will access the program through a browser, with a PC, Mac, tablet…whatever. **Brother** already has a head




**Pfaff**'*s Premier+*



**Bernina's** *Bernina Toolbox*

start on cloud-based programs with their *Scan 'N Cut* system. Several creative and design functions are accessed with *Scan 'N Cut Canvas*.

Using an *iPhone* or *iPad*? **Janome** features AcuDesign, enabling you to view, import, edit, recolor, and more. The optional lettering module adds a dozen fonts. When finished creating or editing, you can transmit the design to your compatible machine or wireless flash device, via WiFi.

Sometimes your best choice is within your brand's ecosystem. Brand specific features may be unlocked when using software within the same family.

The most important feature is the support of your local dealer. Factory trained sales associates will listen to your needs and desires, matching you with the right program that addresses your needs and ability. Training, on-line or face-to-face, is critical to your understanding, enjoyment and productivity. Your dealer has the staff to support software training.

## Here are some resources:

**Baby Lock** *BabyLock.com Palette, Designer's Gallery, EmbroideryWorks*
**Bernina** *Bernina.com Bernina Embroidery Software, Bernina Toolbox.*
**BriTon Leap** *Embrilliance.com Enthusiast, Essentials, AlphaTricks, Density Repair Kit*
**Brother** *BrotherSews.com PEDesign, BES Embroidery Lettering, Simply Appliqué, MacBroidery*
**Dime** *InspiredByDime.com Perfect Embroidery Professional, My Quilt Embellisher, My Quilt Planner, My Block Piecer, Word Art in Stitches, My Emoji Stitches, Vintage Embroidery Software, Perfect Stitch Viewer*
**Husqvarna Viking** *HusqvarnaViking.com Premier+ series, TruEmbroidery 3*
**Janome** *Janome.com Digitizer, AcuDesign, AcuSetter*
**Pfaff** *Pfaff.com Premier+ series, TruEmbroidery 3*
**Wilcom** *Wilcom.com Embroidery Studio programs, Hatch programs*

Want to share an amazing creation? Or, just want to share? I am always there for you! Group hug, everyone! GreatScott@kneedle.com or facebook.com/GreatScottSews

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**May 5 - 6, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
Sew Many Blessings
Huntington, WV

**May 5 - 6, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sew Much More (Little Rock)
North Little Rock, AR

**May 5 - 6, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
The Quilter's Trunk
Chicago, IL

**May 12 - 13, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Ann's Fabrics Sewing Machine Center
Canton, MA

**May 12 - 13, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Cathey's Vac & Sew
Tucson, AZ

**May 12 - 13, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Idaho Sewing & Vacuum Center
Boise, ID

**May 12 - 13, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Steve's Sewing, Vacuum, Quilting
King of Prussia, PA

**May 12 - 13, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
The Smocking Shop
Louisville, KY

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
All-Star Sewing & Embroidery
Pocatello, ID

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
McDonald's Sewing & Vacuum
Arkansas City, KS

**May 19, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Montavilla Sewing Center
Gresham, OR

**May 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Montavilla Sewing Center
Beaverton, OR

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sew Creative
Fairport, NY

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sewing Gallery
Shreveport, LA

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Smith-Owen Sewing & Quilting Center
Grand Rapids, MI

**May 19 - 20, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Woolstock Knit & Sew
Glyndon, MD

## JUNE 2017

**June 2 - 3, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Ace Sewing Center
Wichita Falls, TX

**June 2 - 3, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Coastal Sewing & Appliance
Wilmington, NC

**June 2, 2017**
**Beyond the Hoop**
Daines Cotton Shops
Sandy, UT

**June 2 - 3, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Love to Sew Boutique
Osage Beach, MO

**June 2 - 3, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Rae Bon Sew & Quilt Shop
Fargo, ND

**June 2, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Rich's Sewing Vacuum Inc.
Salem, OR

**June 3, 2017**
**Beyond the Hoop**
Daines Cotton Shops
Provo, UT

**June 3, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Rich's Sewing Vacuum Inc.
Albany, OR

**June 9 - 10, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sandy's Make It Sew
Livonia, MI

**June 9 - 10, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sewing Center of Orange County
Placentia, CA

**June 9 - 10, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
SewingMachinesPlus.com
San Marcos, CA

**June 9 - 10, 2017**
**Beyond the Hoop**
Tops Sewing & Vacuum
Fort Myers, FL

**June 9 - 10, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
Upland Vac & Sew
Upland, CA

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Amy Baughman Sew & Quilt
Cranberry Township, PA

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Auburn Sewing Center
Auburn, MA

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Bob's Sewing
Albuquerque, NM

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Findlay Sewing Center
Findlay, OH

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Key Grocery & Quilts
Ardmore, OK

**June 16 - 17, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sew Creative Sewing & Vacuum
Wenatchee, WA

**June 16, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Sewing & Vacuum Warehouse
Conroe, TX

**June 17, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Sewing & Vacuum Warehouse
Houston, TX

**June 21 - 22, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Morrows Sewing & Vacuum Center
Bend, OR

**June 23 - 24, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
A1 Singer Sewing Center
Wichita, KS

**June 23, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Above and Beyond Sewing
Thornton, CO

**June 24, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Above and Beyond Sewing
Centennial, CO

**June 30 - July 1, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sew Tech
Evansville, IN

# Learning is fun!

• Embroidery Techniques from A to Z • Vintage Chic • Beyond the Hoop •
• Software & Hooping Clinic • Design Workshop •

## JULY 2017

**July 7 - 8, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Johnston Home Center
Benton, AR

**July 7 - 8, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Tomahawk Sew & Vac
Tomahawk, WI

**July 7 - 8, 2017**
**Design Workshop**
Windy Moon Quilts
Reno, NV

**July 14 - 15, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Midsouth Sewing Center
Murfreesboro, TN

**July 14 - 15, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Northwest Sewing Center
Austin, TX

**July 14 - 15, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
Sew Much More
Savannah, GA

**July 14 - 15, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sewing Machine Warehouse
North Hills, CA

**July 14, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Village Sewing Center
Santa Rosa, CA

**July 15, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sewing Center of Tampa Bay & Wesley Chapel
Wesley Chapel, FL

**July 15, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Village Sewing of Redding
Redding, CA

**July 21, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Life's A Stitch
Appleton, WI

**July 22, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Life's A Stitch
DePere, WI

**July 21 - 22, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Sandy's Fabrics & Machines
Kennewick, WA

**July 21 - 22, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Sewing Center of Santa Fe
Santa Fe, NM

**July 21 - 22, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
Thimbles Quilting Supplies
Lockport, IL

**July 22, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Discount Fabrics Warehouse
Kahului, HI

**July 23 - 24, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Discount Fabrics Warehouse
Kailua-Kona, HI

**July 25 - 26, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Discount Fabrics Warehouse
Hilo, HI

**July 27 - 28, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Discount Fabrics Warehouse
Lihue, HI

**July 28 - 29, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Ace Sewing and Vacuum Center
Pompano Beach, FL

**July 28 - 29, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Beckie's Sewing Center
Tazewell, TN

**July 28 - 29, 2017**
**Vintage Chic**
Central Sewing Center
Fort Smith, AR

**July 28 - 29, 2017**
**Software & Hooping Clinic**
Sew Vac City
College Station, TX

**July 28 - 29, 2017**
**Embroidery Techniques from A to Z**
Tomorrow's Treasures
Crofton, MD

***Visit www.inspiredbydime.com for the most up-to-date event listings.***

# A Closer Look

By Denise Holguin

# Embrilliance™

**Embroidery For the Rest Of Us!**

*– This Issue's Inside Look –*

## StitchArtist™

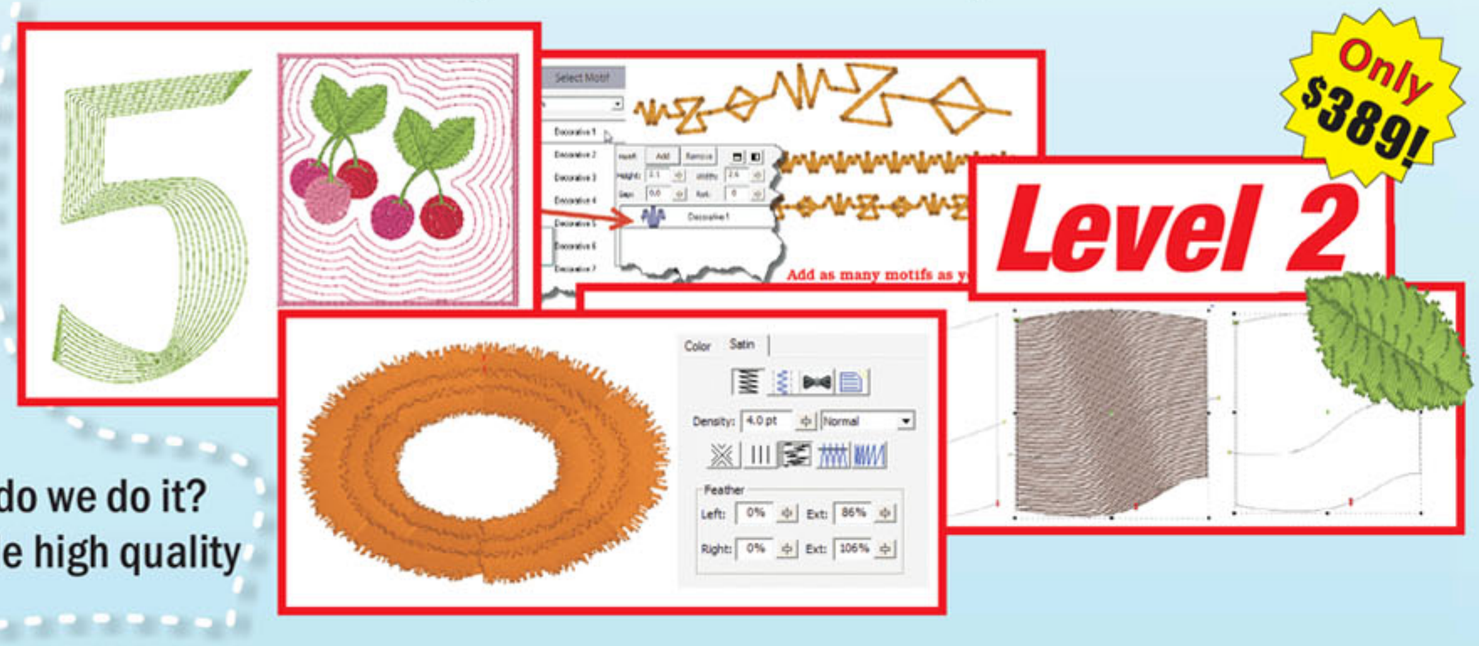
### Creating Designs just got easier (and a whole lot less expensive!)

This is a breakthrough in simplicity. You have to try it to understand how easy it is to draw with stitches. Applique, redwork, cross stitch, freestanding lace, satins, fills and more for $179! Feeling inspired?

**Level 1**

**Only $179!**

### That's just level 1. Ready for more?




**Only $389!**

**Level 2**

❝ Yes, we know other software costs thousands. How do we do it? We sell a lot more. Our little team is driven to provide high quality and still make it affordable to everyone. It's a simple formula, and it works. ❞

Level 2 adds multiple satin inputs, curved fills *which you control*, motifs with explosive effects, feathering, gradients, contour satin styles, echo quilting, candlewicks, french knots, freestanding underlay (richlieu bars) and more!

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## Embrilliance Essentials

Create stunning compositions!

**A Super Value!**

**Essential Tools for Every Embroiderer!**

- Merge designs, Remove overlaps
- Re-Size, recalculate
- Change threads
- Edit sections
- Convert formats
- Browse, even in .ZIPs
- Letter, 12 built-in fonts
- Multi-line,Circle text
- Monograms, with layouts
- Built-in designs
- Project Advisor
- Split for Multi-Position Hoops
- Sew Simulator, Printing and More!

**Only $149.95**

***Essentials* is so EASY -- do more sewing spend less time at the computer!**

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You won't know how you lived without it!"
*-Brian Bailie*

Made in Brian's workshop at BriTon Leap

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Mac

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